



What's a nice ghoulish like you doing in a place like this? (See page 6 to find out!)

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, JULY 14TH, 2011

Heol y Cyw pupils step back 100 years in time!

This special line-up was taken at centenary celebrations in Heol-y-Cyw Primary School (See page 12 for report)



PHOTOGRAPH by
RANDELL JOHN

Four years for Torquay man who started fire at Bridgend premises

DAMAGE of up to £45,000 was caused to vehicles parked in a yard in Bridgend when a man deliberately started a fire.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Sean Cruise (36) of Inner Brook Road, Torquay, was jailed for four years after pleading guilty to arson.

Prosecutor Sian Phillips said that in the early hours of April 7 last year, a fire was

started in a yard belonging to a trader in Coychurch Road, Bridgend.

Cruise had entered through a perimeter fence and he set alight a parked Chrysler which belonged to his brother, but the fire spread and altogether five vehicles were damaged, including an MG, a Renault, a Vauxhall and a Mitsubishi truck owned by the yard proprietor.

A fire service expert concluded that the blaze

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

had been caused deliberately after a match had been thrown on car upholstery.

A DNA sample found at the scene matched that of the defendant, who was arrested in Torquay.

Ms Phillips said he later became unwell and had to go to hospital.

He could offer no explanation as to why his DNA sample was

spotted at the scene and denied being involved.

He said he had gone to Bridgend to be with his brother, who at the time was ill.

Cruise was said to have convictions for 101 offences, including burglary, driving while disqualified, affray, possessing an air weapon, inflicting

grievous bodily harm and criminal damage.

His barrister Richard Ace, said: "There is a background to the case concerning events in the past. There was some pre-planning. "No accelerator was used, and he does not have a fascination with fire."

Judge Nicholas Cooke said: "A number of people were affected directly and indirectly

by your act."

He said that at one point, Cruise had claimed that his partner had been seriously ill and he wanted money to obtain medicine for her not available on the NHS.

The judge directed that the police investigate that matter, to ascertain whether there had been an attempt to pervert the course of justice.

Police appeal after burglary

POLICE are continuing to investigate a burglary at Plas Morlais in North Cornelly, between June 1-28 while the occupants were away. Intruders smashed their way through the front door and stole a copper water tank and copper piping. Police said it had

resulted in extensive water damage to the building and appealed to anyone who saw or heard any suspicious activity to come forward.

• Anyone with information should contact Bridgend CID on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The Sewing Box

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SCHOOL CALL TO ACTION

A LLYNFI Valley school has been told to put together an action plan after an Estyn inspection.

Nantylfyllon Primary School, which was highly rated in 2005 under the leadership of headteacher Malcolm Davies, was inspected earlier this year.

The 2005 inspection, conducted under system where schools were graded in seven different areas, saw Nantylfyllon awarded six grade ones, and one grade two – a rating far exceeding many other Bridgend county borough schools.

The inspection regime has changed now, and the 2011 inspection does not talk about grades for schools.

Instead, different aspects of the school are rated, in descending order, as excellent, good, adequate and unsatisfactory.

any unsatisfactory ratings, but it was described only as "adequate" for the three 'key questions' asked by the inspectors.

These are:

1/ How good are the outcomes?
2/ How good is provision?

3/ How good is leadership and management?

As a result of these ratings, the school has been told to draw up an action plan and it will be

monitored by Estyn for the next 12 months.

A BCBC spokesman said: "As a recent Estyn report identified that the school requires significant improvement in some areas, the headteacher has produced a post-inspection action plan, and the school is working closely alongside the LEA to address the concerns of the report."

COME AND JOIN US!

The GEM is looking to expand its professional team based in Cowbridge.

Our standards are very high; so yours will need to be, too!

We have opportunities for the right people to represent us in the area within our advertising team. There are also opportunities for freelance reporters covering areas between Penarth and Porthcawl to join our small team.

In the first instance, telephone 01446 771244 on Friday, July 15, between 12pm-2pm.



Make your house a home

We have lots of cats and kittens in our care in need of loving homes.

Phone 01656 724 396 or visit www.bridgend.cats.org.uk

CATS PROTECTION

PHONE-HACKING OUTRAGE: Community united in the name of decency

IT always interests me how certain, rare, issues can unite people... The need for justice to be done, and to be seen to be done, is undoubtedly one of them.

As someone who has served as a magistrate in Bridgend for the last 22 years, I get a great sense of this in my work; it's something I also discussed with court colleagues when we gathered recently to mark the 650th anniversary of the office of the Justice of the Peace.

We noted that although the system of administering justice has evolved over the last six centuries, the principles on which it was founded remains: we are each committed to creating the fairer, safer and, ultimately, the more just society which people want – a place where they can live, work and raise their families.

I believe the council plays an important partnership role in creating this more 'just' society which our communities deserve. We carry out a great deal of preventative work with families, and through our Community Safety Partnership, our Public Protection department, our CCTV and our Youth

FOLLOW THE LEADER



by MEL NOTT
Leader of the
Bridgend County
Borough Council

Offending Team to name just a few.

We also hold important powers to sanction offenders, whether that be for under-age sales of cigarettes or dropping litter.

These are all things that our communities tell us they want us to tackle and which we're committed to.

On a much larger scale, the national outcry over the phone-hacking scandal linked

to the now defunct *News of the World* was another example of the country speaking with one voice in the name of justice.

I think we have all been sickened by the thought of parents, cast into the public spotlight through the most tragic circumstances, having their personal lives violated in this way.

It's alleged this has also included some families who have lost loved ones serving in war zones.

As a community which shows such overwhelming support for the armed forces, I have no doubt you were as sickened as I was by this allegation. Certainly this Sunday tabloid has hardly been a friend to our own borough in difficult times.

I hope this will not be the end of the matter and I support the views of the Labour leader Ed Miliband, when he said those responsible must still be brought to justice – the vulnerable people who have been so terribly affected by this deserve nothing else.

How nice it would be to see a new Sunday newspaper devoted to telling positive stories and sharing good news for a change.

As a council and a county borough, we would certainly have plenty to contribute!



HAUL AWAY, SHIPMATES!
The HMS Neptune field gun crew in action.

FORMER LLANHARI STUDENT MAKES NAVY FIELD GUN FINALS

Bridgend sailor Richard in gruelling gun crew contest

A BRIDGEND sailor recently reached the finals of one of the military's most gruelling and prestigious events – The Royal Navy Field Gun competition.

ETME(SM) Richard Humphreys (35) has spent the past few weeks training with HMS Neptune's Field Gun Crew at the home of the UK Submarine Service, HM Naval Base Clyde, pushing the limits of his physical and mental endurance in preparation for the big event.

On June 4, the former Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari student saw his hard work pay off when the Neptune Crew saw off stiff competition from dozens of other Naval establishments to make the finals of the event.

HMS Neptune crew's No 1 trainer, Warrant Officer Gary Nicolson, said:

"There are 18 members of the team and eight of them are lifting the equivalent of a large family saloon car.

"It will give you an

idea of just how fierce the competition at the event was if I tell you that during the heats, the field gun world record was broken on four separate occasions!"

During his day job Richard works as an engineering technician, servicing the nuclear-powered submarines alongside HM Naval Base Clyde.

Although the Royal Navy Field Gun competition was eventually won by HMS Heron, former South Wales Police Officer Richard and his fellow gunners were soon looking forward to their next challenge – racing at the Armed



LEFT:
Richard
Humphreys.

Tattoo from August 14-21, where he will not only demonstrate the field gun in front of thousands of spectators, but also on BBC cameras who will be covering the event.

"The Royal Navy Field Gun competition has been in existence since 1907 and is encouraged throughout the Senior Service as an activity which fosters the qualities of courage, discipline, respect and loyalty that are vital in today's Armed Forces," a spokeswoman said.

Forces Day event at Leith near Edinburgh on Friday, June 24.

Next up for the submariner is a stint at the Edinburgh Military

Gathering the talents!

FLOWDEM, Hip Hop boy band semi-finalists on Sky One's Must be the music, will be performing on Saturday (July 16) at Bridgend Recreation Centre.

The band will be guests for the official week-long launch of 'The Urban Gathering' – part of 'The Gathering' music scheme.

Andre van Wyk, arts development officer and coordinator of the scheme, said: "In partnership with various like-minded groups across the borough,

"The Gathering was established as a music industry development scheme for young people last year.

"Initially, we aimed our efforts at the prevalent rock culture in the borough, but our mission was always to broaden out as the need and the opportunities arise and embrace different

aspects of youth culture...music for all sorts!"

A week of day workshops is being held for students of Maesteg, Brynteg, Bryntyrion and Cynffig comprehensive schools.

Tomorrow (July 15) from 3.45pm-6pm, Bridgend Dance Centre is running a free, open session to anyone aged between 13 and 25 to learn a dance routine. Call (01656) 642668 for full details.

Boys take up a reading challenge – and score a penalty shoot-out success!



The Mayor awarding the shield.

AS recent studies show that boys tend to read less than girls, with many losing interest after they leave primary education at the age of 11, Bridgend library and information service and the Bridgend Basic Skills management team have set up the boys' literacy programme, funded by Basic Skills Cymru.

As part of the scheme, a six-week programme of events was recently organised for Llangynwyd, Garth, Tondy and Pil primary schools.

An inter-school penalty shoot out took place to celebrate the end of the programme and the boys' achievements at Pyle Life Centre, attended by the Mayor, Coun Christopher Michaelides, Mayoress, Mrs Felicity Michaelides, and supporters.

A spokeswoman said participants answered a mixture of questions about sports and on a book they have recently read.

Each correct answer resulted in the chance to kick for goal in the final penalty shoot-out.

"Songwriter and producer Jason Camilleri also worked with the boys during the programme to create a rap, which was performed at the start of the



**THE PENALTY
SHOOT OUT.**

event. After an enjoyable afternoon, the team from Garth primary were declared the winners, receiving the penalty shoot out shield.

"The event was so successful it is hoped that more schools will take part next year, making this unique literary and sporting event an annual feature in the schools and libraries calendars."

Searching for the Land Army girls

AN important study of the unsung heroines of the Second World War and post-war period is currently underway at Queen's University, Belfast.

We are currently researching the lives of women who served with the Women's Land Army and Women's Timber Corps in three areas, including Glamorgan.

Did the experience have a longer term impact on how recruits lived their lives after the war?

As research assistant on the project, I would

like to appeal to any of your readers who served in the WLA or WTC in Glamorgan, or who know someone who served in the area, to contact me.

Participants in the research will be asked to take part in an interview about their experiences; I will be conducting interviews in Barry on July 20.

I look forward to hearing from Glamorgan's WLA and WTC veterans.

Mark Simpson
(Research assistant, Queen's University, Belfast, email msimpson03@qub.ac.uk, telephone 07779791550).

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL JULY 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
14 Thur	07.20	8.9	19.45	9.5
15 Fri	08.11	9.3	20.33	9.6
16 Sat	08.57	9.4	21.16	9.7
17 Sun	09.35	9.5	21.53	9.8
18 Mon	10.11	9.4	22.31	9.6
19 Tues	10.41	9.2	22.04	9.2
20 Wed	11.18	8.9	23.35	9.1
21 Thur	11.52	8.6	23.09	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



LEFT: Coun Alana Davies, Mayor Chris Michaelides, First Minister Carwyn Jones AM, and BCBC chief executive Jo Farrar, are pictured at the opening of Oldcastle Primary's new £2m extension.

First Minister unveils school's £2m extension

FIRST Minister Carwyn Jones AM on Monday officially opened Oldcastle Primary School's new £2 million extension and classes.

The project was largely funded by the Welsh Government, receiving money from a variety of different grants, including the early years capital grant, the school building improvement grant and the Transition to 21st Century schools grant.

The former infants and juniors became

one primary school in September 2008 and work was carried out on the old infant building to make two classrooms larger.

In addition, a new infant extension was also completed in 2009 to house a nursery class, two reception classes and two year-1 classes.

The extension also joined up the junior and infant sections of the school. As a result, Oldcastle's 365 pupils now enjoy a much larger learning space.

The First Minister, who is also the AM for Bridgend, commented: "The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that

every child in Wales is educated in an environment that is conducive to learning for the 21st Century.

"This project encapsulates this Government's commitment to deliver schools fit for the 21st century. Oldcastle Primary has been able to create a fun and modern learning environment in which pupils will thrive.

"I would like to congratulate everyone who has been involved in this project for all their hard work. I'm sure that the new facilities will continue to pay dividends for years to come."

Kiwi Bruce joins Bridgend Rotary



ABOVE: Bruce (centre) with president Roger Grannum and his mentor David Hubbard.

THE latest member to be inducted into the Rotary Club of Bridgend is New Zealander Bruce Bradley, who now lives in Broadlands with his wife and family.

Bruce works as a marine health, safety, security and quality manager over-viewing harbour tugs around the UK coast (and super yachts in the Mediterranean) for SVITZER Marine Ltd, one of the worlds largest marine harbour and ocean towage companies.

Bruce was a Rotarian in New

Zealand and at his induction he said: "I am looking forward to helping with the valuable work of Rotary in Bridgend and joining in the social activities of this very active club."

The Rotary Club of Bridgend is in 'good health'. Bruce takes the membership to 43 men and women members. The club has an exciting comprehensive programme this year, which will include reinstating the fun run.

For further details of becoming a Rotarian, contact Dianne Hubbard 01656 658595.

The sun shines on those who (Terry) Waite!

THE weather certainly smiled on the Emmaus Bridgend Garden Party recently when more than 100 people waited expectantly for Terry Waite at the Quakers' Meeting House in Bridgend.

Terry was slightly delayed by heavy traffic in London, but in the end was only a few minutes late for the opening. Meanwhile, there was plenty for those attending to do while they waited in the sunshine.

Terry is president of Emmaus UK and has been involved in the Emmaus movement since it first started in Britain some 20 years ago.

Emmaus is a charity which creates communities for those who have become homeless for whatever reason.

Work is provided for those who join, and they are given every help in an alcohol and drug free environment to get their lives back on an even keel.

Terry Waite spoke with enthusiasm of the great contribution that an Emmaus commu-

nity can make to the wider community of which it is a part.

He referred to evidence from research carried out by Cambridge University which showed that an Emmaus community can save the taxpayer more than £30,000 per year per companion (as those who join an Emmaus community to escape from homelessness are called.)

However, much more important than the financial consequences, is the clear evidence that in a large majority of cases the support companions receive during their stay in Emmaus communities enables them to turn their lives around on a long term basis.

Madeleine Moon MP, attended the event with her family and promised her support for the effort to create the first Emmaus community in Wales at Bridgend.

Overall, the event was a great success and gave many people a chance to find out more about Emmaus in a convivial environment on a lovely summer's afternoon.

RUTH O'NEIL

Bridgend ASBO man (56) is jailed after pub drink

A BRIDGEND man who breached an anti-social behaviour order and a suspended sentence was jailed for 18 weeks at Cardiff Crown Court.

Stephen Gronow (56) of Charles Street pleaded guilty to breaching a five-year ASBO before Vale Magistrates, and was committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said the order had been imposed in April 2007, and Gronow had breached it on a number of occasions.

The latest breach involved him being found drunk in a pub

Report by AJ SICLUNA

in Bridgend. A condition of the order was that he was not to go to pubs.

Mr Greenwood said that he also breached a suspended sentence for having a bladed article in his possession.

In January of last year, he also appeared before Vale Magistrates for assaulting Gwilym Jones, when both men lived in multi-occupation premises.

Gronow punched him, causing a black eye. Earlier, Gronow had been ejected from a club in Bridgend.

Hugh Wallace, defending, said: "His

antecedent history is very depressing. He has tried to wean himself off alcohol.

"He is eager to address his problems, and he has suffered two bereavements, with which he has not come to terms.

"All he did to breach the ASBO was to sit quietly in a pub drinking and minding his own business. It was not the most serious breach."

Recorder Christopher Clew said: "This is the 10th occasion you have breached the order.

"The only person who can conquer your problems is yourself. Custody is inevitable."

Ogmore post offices share funds windfall

OGMORE AM Janice Gregory has congratulated staff at four Post Offices in the constituency for their successful application to the Post Office Diversification Fund.

They are four of 87 across Wales to be awarded part of approved grants of £849,658 to help sub-

postmasters and sub-postmistresses diversify and improve their facilities.

The fund aims to help local post offices expand their businesses and provide new services for the community.

The AM said: "I am delighted that Pencoed, Blaengarw, Llangynwyd and Llanharri Post Offices are to benefit from this fund.

"Post Offices are at the heart of the commu-

nity and are often a lifeline for vulnerable people.

"This money will help us to keep Post Offices open by ensuring that subpostmasters and subpostmistresses have sustainable and viable businesses, and I am delighted that so many Post Offices in Wales have been able to take advantage of the fund."

...Maesteg Rotary Club has a new president

ROTARIAN Talfyn Harries succeeded Viv Gage as president of the Maesteg Rotary Club at a short ceremony held in the Old House, Llangynwyd, on Monday, July 4.

Following the ceremony, he said he intended to continue to seek new members so that the club's work of providing help in the local community and overseas could be continued.

In the past year, local donations were made to the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Bridgend Carers, Brynneith Care Home, the Cystic Fibrosis Unit at Llandough Hospital, RNID, Maesteg Hospital League of Friends, the British Legion and Help for Heroes.

Overseas donations were made to Mary's



ABOVE: Viv Gage congratulates Talfyn Harries (on right).

Meals and the Rotary 'Thanks for Life' programme, which is close to eliminating polio throughout the world.

In addition, with the help of local churches and schools, 360 shoeboxes were sent to

Kosova and Moldova. Readers who may be interested in finding out more about Rotary are invited to contact Viv Gage on viv.gage@talk21.com or 01639 870442.

'Bring call centre jobs to Pencoed!' urges Tory AM

WELSH business minister Edwina Hart AM has been urged to seize the initiative and win some new call centre jobs for Pencoed.

Regional Conservative AM Suzy Davies has already been in touch with banking giant Santander in the wake of their announcement that they are bringing all their call centres back from India to the UK.

"We have a tremendous skills base in the Bridgend area for call centre work," she said.

"We will soon have the purpose-built call centre at Pencoed, currently

occupied by Lloyds TSB, becoming vacant as they move their operations out.

"We have the experience in this area that Santander needs in meeting the demands of its customers for UK based call centres and staff.

"I am calling upon the Welsh government to take the initiative here and fight for these jobs.

"We need to ensure that we have suitable incentives in place to secure this much-needed employment for our workforce locally.

"We are competing with other sites in the UK for the location of the new Santander jobs," the AM pointed out.

Don't forget your GEM is available to read online also - just visit www.bridgend-today.co.uk or www.porthcawl-today.co.uk and register FOR FREE!



NIGEL HEADS OFF TO POLICE AFGHAN CAPITAL

LEFT: Chief Inspector Nigel Lewis, ready and waiting to leave in his official uniform.

IN 28 years at South Wales Police, Chief Inspector Nigel Lewis has done most things – but this time he's landed himself a very different challenge.

On July 8, he left Wales for Afghanistan to join a European policing mission to oversee improvements to policing in Kabul.

Nigel, who lives in Ogmere Vale, but has served as a Chief Inspector in Rhondda Cynon Taff for the last four years, will be based at a secure compound in the Afghan capital for

the next 12 months.

After a national recruitment drive, Nigel was selected by the UK Stabilisation Unit (part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development).

He'll take up position as head of the 'City Police and Justice Programme', and will be expected to introduce a neighbourhood policing style to the Afghan National Police Service.

Nigel, whose own father was a policeman whose work also took him around the world to the Caribbean and West

Africa, said: "I have many years as an officer under my belt, and I intend to take it all to Afghanistan so that it can benefit others at this time of need.

"Some people think I am mad for even contemplating the role, but I am a 'glass half full' sort of person and while I accept the scale of the challenge, I'm really excited to be able to add my weight to what are very important, historical efforts which will ultimately help to ensure peace back home in the UK.

"I suppose I am doing this for the same reasons I joined the service back

in 1983. I wanted to serve the community and stop the bad guys back then, and that's pretty much what I'll be doing in Afghanistan.

"If I can translate some of the success we've had with neighbourhood policing in south Wales into another setting, then I will consider my job well done."

For 12 months Nigel will be based at a secure compound and his every movement will be under constant protection. Only last week, news flashes of suicide bombings in the capital were beamed across the world.

He leaves his wife and two sons back in Wales. On missing his home comforts, and on the relative danger which confronts him, he explained: "My wife Lisa is very supportive, and I am immensely proud of my sons who are young men now and leading their own lives.

"Of course I will miss them, but in this day and age it isn't so difficult to keep in touch and I'm sure the time will go very quickly.

"This really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. I take great comfort in thinking that somehow my efforts to disrupt the bad guys and keep Afghan people safe, will ultimately help keep my home soil and everyone I know and cherish safe too."

Nigel will be part of the UK Government's Stabilisation Unit which draws together expertise in diplomacy, defence and development to help countries at risk of, or already affected by, conflict.

The role is funded in its entirety by the UK Government conflict pool.

Channel swimmers raise cash for Forces' charity

The swimmers who took part in the challenge.



A TEAM of 13 firefighters swam the Bristol Channel to raise cash for sufferers of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Officers from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service swam 36 nautical miles in aid of Healing The Wounds, the Tondur-based charity which supports Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families and members of the civilian emergency services.

One of the event organisers, Watch manager Gareth Davies, said he was delighted with the success of the swim and hoped that the event would raise £10,000 for the charity.

"We know that £3,500 has already been pledged, and we hope that further promises of cash will bring the total up to £10,000."

The swimmers set off from Ilfracombe at 10am on Saturday, June 25, and by swimming in relays managed to cover nearly a mile an hour, reaching Mumbles by 3pm the following day.

Mr Davies said: "We'd trained hard for it, but it was still a massive test of stamina and willpower."

"Overnight, we had to lay-up for a short while as we were being pounded by a Force Five storm. At least two waves crashed over the boat at one stage and it was very scary, to say the least."

"Having said that, we

completed the swim in glorious weather conditions and we were delighted with the warm welcome we received when we landed at Knab Rock, Mumbles.

"It was hard going, but it was well worth it for this important charity."

The firefighters chose to raise funds for Healing The Wounds after hearing about its work from a former Serviceman.

"As firefighters, we understand that people who put their lives on the line need emotional and psychological support, and that is what Healing The Wounds offer," said Mr Davies.

Kevin Richards, executive director of Healing

The Wounds, said: "Firefighters risk their safety to help other people, so they are able to understand the demanding nature of life in the forces."

"Swimming the Bristol Channel was a huge undertaking, which really tested the firefighters. Their achievement was magnificent and we are all very proud of them."

If you wish to sponsor the firefighters, visit Mid and West Wales Fire Service or Virgin Money Giving websites and follow the links.

For more information on Healing The Wounds visit www.healingthewounds.co.uk

Mystery surrounds MoD's programme of demolition work

MYSTERY surrounds an MoD programme of demolition on the East Camp at St Athan – and GEM attempts to clarify the situation were dead-batted by an MoD spokeswoman.

This week, The GEM received a letter from a St Athan resident, Mr W Henderson, asking why buildings were being demolished.

In his letter, Mr Henderson said that the rumour going around was that the buildings were being demolished so that the Ministry of Defence could avoid paying rates on the buildings!

The GEM decided that it was only right to give

by PHILIP IRWIN

the MoD a chance to nip this rumour in the bud, so we asked the simple question: "Are these buildings being knocked down to save paying rates?"

An MoD spokeswoman responded to The GEM with the following statement:

"An MoD-funded contract for a limited quantity of demolition in St Athan East Camp was let by the Welsh Government due to their ownership of the site."

"This stabilisation work at East Camp in St Athan was undertaken to ensure the health and safety of those continuing to use the site."

It wasn't a statement that shed a great deal of

light on the issue, so The GEM asked some supplementary questions, but these were dead-batted away.

We asked: "Are the buildings in a poor state, so that they needed to be knocked down for health and safety reasons?"

We were referred to the statement.

We asked: "What does the phrase 'was let by the Welsh Government' mean?"

We were referred to the statement.

We asked: "Is saving rates the reason for the demolition?"

We were referred to the statement.

Therefore, The GEM will be seeking further clarification, in the hope of getting an answer to Mr Henderson's question in time for next week.

Local teenager's concerto is given its debut airing

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Samuel Woodford, a talented clarinet player from Porthcawl, will be playing in a concert at All Saints Church on Monday, July 18.

Samuel, who is a pupil at Chethams School of Music in Manchester, is hoping to raise money for the Special Needs Activity Centre (SNAC), in Port Talbot.

The centre is the only one of its kind in south Wales and offers activities and a meeting place for disabled youngsters and their families from all over the region. The centre provides a lifeline and is quite unique.

The repertoire at the concert includes the premiere of Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra, written by Samuel himself, as well as the second movement of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto. He will be accompanied by Swansea Community Orchestra, who will also be playing several pieces.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £6 (£4 concessions).



'Crime fall could be undermined by budget cuts' – says Bridgend AM

Madeleine Moon MP said that crime figures in Wales showed recorded crime fell by 20 per cent between 2003 and 2009.

Burglary and car crime fell by a third over the same period. The analysis was produced using figures collated by the British Crime Survey.

She went on: "The substantial falls in crime in Wales are testament to the hard work of police officers. Bridgend has benefited from this directly with substantial falls in crime."

"Criminal damage is down 17 per cent. Theft of motor vehicles is down by 14.8 per cent. Violence with injury is down 16.4 per cent."

"Over the past few

months, I have been spending time with officers of South Wales Police as part of a parliamentary scheme, looking at all aspects of their work."

"I have seen at first hand the challenges they face every day and how committed they are to keeping our communities safe. These figures are a real credit."

"Budget cuts brought about by the Coalition Government and their proposals to introduce elected police commissioners could undermine all of this hard work."

"Police officers should be allowed to do what they do best without unnecessary changes and cuts; being innovative, creative and working with partners to cut crime," she insisted.

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Mrs Lucy Davies – 5 Cefn Nant, Pencoed – Works to trees in garden.

Mr Andrew Pritchard – 14 Parc Tyn y Waun, Maesteg – Cut back 2 oak trees, a tree, and cut back trees beyond conifer hedgerow.

Mr Hugh Spencer – Lancaster House, Derlwyn Road, Tondur – Pollard 4-5 metres of ash and lime, reduce height by 50 per cent of conifer hedge and pollard apple tree.

Lloyds Banking Group – 18 Wyndham Street, Bridgend – Remove existing window merchandising and erect 5 new units, and 3 external

ATM collar surrounds.

Astley Signs – Britannia, 18 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – 1 non illuminated projecting sign and 2 non illuminated flat cut letters on fascia.

Mr K Evans – 1 Laurel Close, Bryncethin – Single storey extension to enlarge existing kitchen.

H D Limited – The Court House, 2 Derwen Road, Bridgend – Change of use of ground floor from public house and to use classes A2 (professional services) and B1 (business).

Mr John Thomas – Lluest Fach, Pant Rhosla Road,

Court Colman, Bridgend – New roof with dormers and side extension.

Mr Ken and Mrs Sarah James – Ty-Hedref, St Brides Road, Aberkenfig – Two/single storey three bedroom house.

Mr A P and Mrs L Cross – 16 Woodlands Rise, Bridgend – Erection of decked area to rear of house.

Mr Robert Jones – 21 Beechgrove, Porthcawl – Replacement and extended rear garden room.

Nolan Recycling Ltd – Central Cottage, Bankers Hill, Cwm Ffoes, Cefn

Cribbwr, Bridgend – Two storey garage and store (resubmission of approval 05/1250).

Mr Glyn Evans – Mione, Bryncethin – Rear flat roof kitchen extension.

Mr Roy Jones – 82 High Street, Kenfig Hill – Two storey extension to dwelling with flat roof.

Estates Department – 18 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – Replacement signage.

Mr Dave Moberley – 24 Priory Oak, Brackla – First floor extension and single storey side extension.

Mrs M Forbes – 7

Danybryn, Evanstown, Gilfach Goch – Single storey extension to provide shower room and ramped access.

Mr Gareth Thomas – 12 Glan Ogwr Road, Bridgend – Two storey rear extension detached single garage and associated alteration works.

Mr I Price – 40 Walters Road, Ogmere Vale – Single storey rear extension.

Mr Marcus Rossini – 45 West Drive, Porthcawl – Extension to front elevation and alterations to previous planning permission ref P/98/0458.

BCBC Transportation –

Llynfi cycle route, Maesteg – Artwork features and a sculpture bench along the Llynfi cycle route between Maesteg and Caerau.

Mr and Mrs Huw Macmillan – 3 Aldenham Road, Porthcawl – Single storey extension to rear.

Mr K Richardson – Pear Tree House, Coychurch Road, Pencoed – Conversion of integral double garage to habitable room.

Mr Michael Butler – 1 Green Meadow, Cefn Cribwr – Retention of 3 amateur radio masts/aerials and erect an additional

radio mast/aerial for trial period of 1 year.

Mr Graham Dighton – 1 West Road, Porthcawl – single storey extension.

Mr Piero Fulgoni – Flat 106A, Nolton Street, Bridgend – App for lawful development certificate – domestic flat above shop premises.

Mr P Kirkham – Ty Nant, Heol Llangeinor, Llangeinor – Housing development consisting of 10 detached dwellings.

The Bridgend Show back to home base!



The Bridgend Show returned to its Pencoed base for another year, as visitors enjoyed all the traditional attractions. (See page 14 for more photographs).

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN

(Available for purchase from
www.RandellJohnPhotography.com or
telephone 01656 662324, 07905 676241)



Jail sentence for Lithuanian after he punched partner

by AJ SICLUNA

A LITHUANIAN charity worker has been jailed for eight months at Cardiff Crown Court for attacking his partner.

Aurimas Kisonas (34) of Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, admitted a charge of causing Elona Peleckyte actual bodily harm.

Prosecutor Andrew Morse said the couple had been living together in Bridgend and in March, there was an argument over her spending too much money.

"This led to him punching her to the forehead," he said. The court heard that Kisonas

had served six years in Lithuania for armed robbery in that country.

Daniel Williams, defending, said the precise nature of the argument does not matter. However, he lost his temper, became very angry and delivered a single punch, which stunned her.

"He didn't use full force and never disputed the assault. They had a stormy relationship and there had been many arguments. There was no premeditation."

He came to the UK, said Mr Williams, not expecting to

spend any time in prison. The relationship is now at an end.

Judge Stephen Hopkins said the defendant had been involved in domestic violence.

During cross-examination, he had said to counsel: "If you had been there, you would have done the same thing."

This, said the judge, clearly indicated his attitude towards women.

He added: "You have a streak which means you have no regard whatsoever for the female sex. This court will not tolerate domestic violence."

The court heard that he had been in custody for four months.

'Fat Boy's Ukraine ride' is to thank Marie Curie for looking after Gramps

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A Rhose man is doing a 3,000 mile marathon bike ride across Europe to thank the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth for the exceptional care they gave his grandfather in his final days.

Duncan MacIver, a former Suez veteran, died 18 months ago, but grandson Karl, who is originally from Barry, said he will never forget "the lovely nurses and staff" who helped the family in their darkest hour.

Karl, aged 30, a furniture agent, explained: "They gave the family such good support and made sure he passed away with dignity."

"Gramps was a former Suez veteran who lived near Jenner Park stadium in Barry. He had worked as a lorry driver, and had also been a foster carer."

"He fought a long battle with cancer and we will never forget the care he received. They did everything, and at the end they arranged for him to meet a chaplain to ease his worries."

Karl was so thankful for the compassion of the staff that he made a personal pledge to himself: to take on an epic bike ride that would raise funds for one of Marie Curie in Penarth.

Originally, Karl planned to cycle all the way to Singapore, but was forced to abandon that ride because his safety could not be guaranteed. He explained: "The new cycle ride is called 'Fat Boy cycling from the UK 2 Ukraine'."

"Fat boy is my nickname at Barry West End Boxing Club."

"The ride will involve cycling 100



ABOVE:
Karl MacIver (left) and Steve Robinson.

miles a day for 30 days.

"With Steve's support, I will be cycling from Marie Curie in Penarth to Dover, on to Calais, through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Poland, Belarus and the Ukraine to Lake Pulemets."

"I decided to go as far east across Europe as possible - minus Russia!"

"I'm not a natural cyclist, boxing has been my sport, so I have been putting in a lot of cycle training."

"Three days a week I cycle 40 miles in the morning and then 40 miles in the evening, but I am also doing boxing for 'cardio' and weights to build up my strength."

In fact, Karl could become fat boy slim throughout the ride.

"I understand that I'll be burning 10,000 calories a day."

"I'm expecting it to get really difficult at around the half way stage with the accumulation of days and miles."

The marathon ride can only be attempted thanks to the back-up of another Barry-born man Steve Robinson (36) who also lives in

Rhose.

Steve, who works in Cardiff as a plant operator, has been given a month off by his company SWR Wales in order to help Karl.

Steve told THE GEM: "I wanted to help Marie Curie because my mother Cynthia Thomas died of cancer, and it is a chance to put something back."

"I'll be driving the Mazda 6 support car which has equipment and drinks, going 20 miles ahead of Karl to make sure everything is okay."

"I won't go any further ahead in case there's an accident and he requires help. We will remain in mobile phone contact."

Karl and Steve are hoping to raise thousands of pounds for Marie Curie in Penarth, a cause much admired in south Wales by the thousands of families who have been helped in their hour of greatest need.

Karl added: "We would be grateful if someone would provide a sat nav to help us navigate the route."

On August 1, Karl will be waving goodbye to his fiancée Samantha and his little girl Nyah, aged three, and won't be seeing them for another five weeks.

But if the public respond to his challenge and significant funds are raised for Marie Curie, he believes it is a sacrifice worth making.

For information on how to support them or contact them to offer help, please go to www.justgiving.com/duncan-maciver; text donations to justgiving CEWW70 and the amount to 70070. Contact Karl at karl-mac29@live.co.uk; mob 07772 863 368.



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Chernobyl children enjoy a Welsh panto experience

FOR many years, the Blaengarw Panto group has put on performances to raise funds for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

It was different this year, however, because for the first time some of the children were able to travel to the Garw Valley to see a performance for themselves – hence the unusual timing of the panto.

This year's show was entitled *The Last in the Chronicles of Billy Turnaround*, and children from a Belarus orphanage were in the audience each night.

Plans are in hand to take more than seven tonnes of aid to the affected area later this year.

Photographs by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
or www.ffotoimage.co.uk
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



PORTHCAWL ARTISTS' KENFIG EXHIBITION



Pictured, left to right are: Porthcawl artists Josie Miles, Clive Callen, and Wendy Davies-Williams.

RIGHT:
Roz welcomes visitors to Kenfig Nature Reserve.

THREE well-known Porthcawl artists, Clive Callen, Josie Miles and Wendy Davies-Williams are holding an exhibition of original paintings at Kenfig Nature reserve.

The paintings are in various mediums and can be seen until the end of July (entry is free).

The nature reserve is a wonderful place for walks and hosts some unusual wildlife.

It is known for several species of orchid and has two observation centres within its boundaries, and also a lake.

There are facilities for hot drinks and toilets, and it is free to visit. It is an excellent day out for families!



Ready for Pony Club with Countrywide!



Picture perfect for Pony Club.

ANYONE off to Pony Club camp this summer can't afford to miss the Equine Weekend taking place at the Bridgend Countrywide Store on July 16-17.

There's not only 10 per cent off* everything in store, but also an extra 10 per cent for BHS Riding Club and Pony Club members presenting a membership card or badge at the checkout.

Countrywide have also designed a special Pony Club Check List: "Now is the perfect time for a Pony Club camp stock up," says the store's equine specialist, Jane Yoeman.

"We've got checklists in store and on-line: all you need from brushes and buckets to hoof oil and riding kit. We've also got some fantastic offers across our range, from clothing and riding kit to seasonal 'must haves' like fly sheets and sprays. Our trained specialists are on hand to make sure hats and body pro-

tectors are correctly fitted, which is great for peace of mind when children are heading off to camp."

"Summer is such a busy time for families," agrees Garry Wharmby, Countrywide retail director. "Getting ready for camp can be a huge task, but safety and comfort are paramount."

Countrywide has an extensive equestrian range that meets the needs of all ages and riding abilities – and all sizes of horse and pony. It includes tack, clothing, hats and body protectors, feed and animal health products.

Pet and equestrian specialists will be in-store over the Equine Weekend to offer guidance on a wide range of topics from feed and bedding to seasonal advice on fly control.

The store will be running a raffle in support of RDA (Riding for the Disabled) and a prize draw can also be entered on www.countrywide-farmers.co.uk/equestrian

Meet the local PCSO!

A COFFEE morning will be held for the Newton Porthcawl area on August 1 in Newton Institute at 10am-11am.

Go along for free coffee and biscuits and speak to your local PCSO.

The next PACT meeting for the Newton area in Porthcawl is on August 30 at Newton School rooms, at 7pm.



Quiz League questions

HERE are you weekly teasers from the V A Newman Glass Quiz League:

1 Electrum is an alloy that consists primarily of gold and which other metal?

2 The shield on the Royal Coat of Arms of the UK is supported by a unicorn and which other creature?

3 Which darts champi-

on is nicknamed 'Darts Maple'?

4 Jack Dorsey created which social networking website?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

4 Twitter.
3 John Part.
2 Ans. Lion.
1 Silver.
ANSWERS

'THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE BOROUGH?'

Garden is created by Aberkenfig residents

by Alex Marshall

ABERKENFIG has a new community garden, created by local residents.

It may even be the first of its kind in Bridgend county borough.

It all came about from a casual conversation between three people – Rozz Cutler, Gillian Williams and Francesca Wools – all residents in properties adjacent to Aberkenfig's community woodland.

Between a car park and the woodland is an uphill zig-zag path, created to help people get to the woodland with ease.

It found another use, however, which wasn't at first envisaged. Children from the adjacent St Robert's school love to skip down the zig-zag holding hands.

The problem was that the patches of land in



The new community garden.

between the zags and the zigs were becoming infested with dock-leaves and other weeds.

Rather than just complain about it, the residents came up with a plan.

It needed some cash, of course, and the community council was approached.

In return for some money towards plants, residents said, they

would put them in and look after them. They were determined, however, that the plants should be of their choosing.

Any vegetables grown would be available to all, not just those who planted them.

The outcome of that council meeting was that I went with Rozz to a local nursery where she negotiated a 10 per

cent discount.

The manager also agreed to throw in some bedding plants for free. Rozz then spent a happy hour choosing and filling her van with a variety of plants.

How I squeezed in the plants I'm unsure, except to say that I was buried!

That evening, the new community garden took shape.

Fires warning as 'task force' goes into action 'GRAFFITI IS NOT ART' – a councillor insists

A probation team from Bridgend is part of a new 'graffiti' task force formed by Vale Council enforcement and cleansing teams, South Wales Police, local youth groups, Stanwell Comprehensive School, and Barry youth offending team.

Their 'Big Clean-Up' campaign has helped clear graffiti from places such as street furniture and local lanes in the town.

Vale Council cabinet member for visible and building services, Coun Geoff Cox, said: "Graffiti is a crime against the community – it is not art. Like

fly-tipping and litter it adversely affects the area, including business or property values.

"We are pleased to welcome groups working together to remove it and send a clear message to offenders.

"If you are caught committing an environmental crime, a £75 fixed penalty notice can be issued by the Vale's enforcement team or the police force. "Equally, you may be prosecuted with a fine of £1,000 through the judicial system."

It was stated that a survey carried out by Keep Wales Tidy identified that graffiti was present on an average of 12 per cent of Welsh streets. The most common targets for graffiti are

street furniture, blank walls, alley gates, lampposts, bus shelters, road signs, monuments, bridges, phone boxes and railway property.



• Detention starts on page 12!

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



BRING ON THE TRAINS!

LEFT: Talbot Community Centre members on their trip to the Brecon Railway.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679

E-mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Ladies fellowship

IT is the end of an era at Pysgah Chapel, now that Karen Evans, who for many years has been at the forefront of organising their popular trips, afternoon teas and evening suppers, has decided that the time is right for her to step back and take life a little easier.

Karen is delighted that younger people are now joining the fellowship and although she will still be organising the holidays, she is pleased to be able to pass everything else into the capable hands of Rhian Jones, who will be organising the trips, and Brenda Rees, who with her daughter Caroline, will look after the catering.

I am sure that everybody who has enjoyed the many events organised by her over the years, would like to thank Karen and wish her well for the future.

Community Centre

FOLLOWING a morning of heavy rain, the clouds disappeared, the sun came out and 53 members of the Talbot Community Centre had a fabulous afternoon on the Brecon Steam Railway last Thursday, followed by an excellent meal and an evening of entertainment at 'Dillons' in Port Talbot.

Cheryl Butcher, co-ordinator at the centre, said that this trip was a sell-out and many people were disappointed at missing it. She said that another trip has been organised in October for a visit to 'Bridges', a fabulous restaurant and entertainment venue in Worcester.

To avoid disappointment, and with half the places on the coach already sold, contact Cheryl by calling in at the Talbot or phoning the number below.

Everyone is welcome to the Talbot CC annual general meeting, which will be held in the Community Centre, 9 Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on August 17, at

6pm, followed by light refreshments. For details, ring Cheryl on 01656 749754.

Pupils impress

Congratulations to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:

George Buckley - Class 1, Conor Jenkins - Class 2, Jack Evans - Class 3, Senem Akpinar - Class 4, Connor McCarthy - Class 5, Millie Evans - Class 6 and Rees Moodie from Class 7. The head-teacher's award went to both Scott Roberts and Jay Buckley.

Both the boys and girls basketball teams took part in the annual Basketball Blitz at Bridgend Recreation Centre on July 6. Both the boys' team, represented by Lloyd Thomas, Jordan Baker, Jamie Knight, Anthony Burnell, Ceiran Jones and Lewis Blythe and the girls' team, represented by Jade Mitchell, Taylor Dennis, Jordenn Daniels, Morgan Evans-Shaw, Jade Walker and Shauna Dunn-Jones qualified from their groups to meet Oldcastle Primary School in the semi-final.

Again, both teams were successful and qualified for the finals.

In the final, the boys engaged in a very exciting game with Maes-yr-Haul Primary School, who scored first, however, with Jamie Knight and Jordan Baker playing well the school went on to win the game comfortably to take the Bridgend Boys Trophy.

The girls final against Llangewydd Junior School, turned out to be a very close match which ended in a draw.

Although all the girls played well with Jordenn Daniels using her height and skill to full advantage and Jade Mitchell competing for every ball, they lost first place when with the scores tied, the rule of first scorer came into play.

Due to the bad weather many of the usual outside activities



Youth members receiving accreditation certificates from senior youth worker, Karen Phillips, second left.

were curtailed at the summer fayre held last Tuesday; but luckily, in between the showers, the children were able to take part in football, basketball and catch the duck.

However, the school hall filled up and everyone had a great time and the raffle was a huge success. After costs were taken out, the school fund was better off to the tune of £600.

The signed picture of the Welsh team is going to silent auction and the result will be known shortly.

Wellbeing Centre

THE activity being held by the Mental Health Matters Wales on Wednesday, July 20 in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road is the Valley and Vale Arts & Crafts workshop from 2pm-3pm.

There is also a general social afternoon from 1pm-5pm.

£50 donation

FOLLOWING a recent activity held at the Bethel Community Church, it was decided to donate the £50 raised to a local charity.

The Talbot Community Centre were delighted and thankful when Joan Marshall called to say that they had been chosen and presented them with a cheque for the money raised.

Barbecue

THE summer barbecue at Mynydd Cynffig Infants School was well attended this year and although the weather wasn't great, it didn't spoil the fun.

The school would like to thank everyone who supported them at the barbecue, which also helped raise a brilliant £400.

Name the Bear winner was Charlotte Edmunds from class 6 after naming it Tommy.

The school would like to thank Lexi Thompson's mother and Keedwell Heavy Haulage for donating a BMX bike to be raffled, with all proceeds going to Elva vos de Mooy. Tickets are still being sold, so for a chance to win this bike and help a good cause, why not call into the school and buy one.

Well done to class 5 who, with 94.8 per cent attendance, received the 'Attendance Award' last week.

The headteacher's awards went to: Ellis Jones - Class 2, Tilley Anderson - Class 3, Erin Evans - Class 4, Tom Flanagan - Class 5 and Ben Dale - Class 6.

Nursery Star of the Week - Nursery - Ioan Billins, Class 1 - Connor Barwick.

Star Awards of the Week - went to Keenan Evans - Class 2, Shayne Clements - Class 3, Amber Tidmarsh - Class 4, Cerys Brinkworth - Class 5 and Katy Mansfield - Class 6.

Sad loss

IT is with sadness that I learned that Keith Burgess, a well known and much loved local character, had passed away suddenly but peacefully, after a short illness.

Keith was a keen motorbike scrambler in his younger days and had worked in British Tissues for 22 years prior to his retirement.

Since retiring, Keith, who has lived in Picton Street for 50 years, enjoyed his garden and meeting the many people he knew who would stop and have a chat with him whenever he was out on one of his walks.

He was a devoted family man, who is going to be missed by everyone who knew him and our thoughts are with Heather, his beloved wife of 40 years, his daughters Angela, Yvonne and

Karen, grandchildren Mark, Shaun, Amy and Gavin and great-grandson Kai. The family thanks everyone for their messages of sympathy.

KPC Youth

AT their annual general meeting held on July 4, they were pleased to report that they had expanded the OCN (Open College Network) accredited learning opportunities at KPC in the past year, which address the needs of young people with low academic levels, to give them more skills, knowledge and help them to develop themselves.

Senior youth worker, Karen Phillips was proud to present the awards to the following members who attended and have gained OCN accreditation during the past year:

Cooking (Confidence to Cook) - Helen Ward; Self-Awareness - Paige Woodham, Chloe Woodham, Aaron McKay and Helen Ward; Individuality and Relationships - Toni Birch, Aaron McKay, Chloe Woodham and Paige Woodham; Drug Awareness - Paige Woodham, Aaron McKay and Chloe Woodham; Promoting Healthy Living - Ryan Jones, Paige Woodham, Jay Tame, Aaron Grabham and Chloe Woodham; Basic Alcohol Education - Aaron McKay and Toni Birch; Independent living - Chloe Woodham and Paige Woodham; Bullying - Aaron McKay; Basic Skills of Sea Fishing - Jay Tame, Aaron McKay and Ryan Jones; Basic First Aid - McCauley Beaton and Jay Tame.

To find out more about KPC Youth either call into the centre, which is located next to Pil Primary School, Off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle or ring 01656 745399/749219.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Food bank appeal

BRIDGEND Food Bank is desperately seeking stocks of food for its distribution centre in St David's Church, Betws.

It would be grateful for any of the following: fruit, tomatoes, potatoes, tuna, rice puddings (all tinned), breakfast cereals, sauces, long life milk, noodles, custard, fruit squash, instant coffee, rice, biscuits.

The members of the church are still operating the 'Messy church', where youngsters between the ages of 5-11 can enjoy themselves on Tuesday afternoons between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

Christian Aid

MEMBERS of the Parish of Llandyfodwg and Cwm Ogwr, including Christchurch Methodist, would like to thank the public for generous donations - the magnificent sum of £2,000 was raised for the above charity.

Glynogwr show

ON August 14, beginning at 9.30am in Lakeside Farm, Gilfach Goch, the show will have a large number of stalls selling a variety of home produce, equestrian events, dog agility contests, horticultural show, children's events including arts and crafts etc.

School assembly

TONDU Primary School reminds relatives and friends of year-6 pupils that there will be a special assembly tomorrow (July 15) at 10.20am, everyone is invited.

There will be a special lunch for pupils leaving the school to go to comprehensive school on July 19, after which the school will break up for the summer holidays, returning on September 5.

Aberkenfig school crossing lady Mrs Mavis Higgins will be retiring at the end of this term. I have seen Mavis carrying out her duties in the most vile of weather conditions and I wish her well for the future.

The PTA will be holding their summer fair at the school tomorrow, July 15, at 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

There will be a fancy dress event for children in Mr Lewis and Mrs

Evans's classes. A talent show will be held for children in the junior classes.

WI news

MEMBERS of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute would like to thank their guests - Marilyn Davies, Enid Lloyd, Violet Pole, Marjorie Goode, Christine David for helping founder members Edith Evans, Marian Edwards, Ethel Rudge, Mair Starr and members to make their 30th anniversary party a real success.

The Women's Institute year slows down at the end of July until the beginning of September.

There are still outings to go on but there are no meetings in August.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig WI is on September 14 when the speaker will be John Williams, whose subject is Porthcawl Lifeboat Station.

There will be a sales table and the competition will be for an item beginning with the letter 'F'. Also in September is the Federation quiz at the Hi Tide in Porthcawl and in October there is the autumn council meeting.

New members and visitors are sure of a warm welcome at Aberkenfig WI, there is always a speaker, a sales table and a chance to make new friends over a cup of tea.

The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, and more information can be obtained from www.cobwebs.co.uk or the secretary Pat Lewis on 01656 721933.

Maesteg U3A

GEOFF BUSHELL gave a vote of thanks to the guest speaker Margaret Harries, who gave a most absorbing and informative talk at the meeting on May 24, when the subject was 'Aid Work Overseas'.

Margaret's presentation included many location photographs of the people and places she has worked so hard to help.

The next meeting will be held at the Central Church Hall at 2.30pm on July 26 where the speaker will be Huw Irranca-Davies MP, who will be speaking on the subject 'Life as a member of Parliament'. Huw is presently the Shadow Minister for Energy and

Climate Change so a great opportunity to hear from someone who is at the centre of our current political establishment.

New members welcome.

Fete

success TYNRYHEOL primary school, Llangenor PTFA raised £1,065.88 towards the school funds at the summer fete.

Headteacher Martin Griffiths would also like to congratulate the following three pupils, Lauren Chard, Ieuan Jeremy and Daniel Parker, who represented 'Bridgend North' district in the mini basketball tournament at Bridgend Recreation Centre on July 3.

The year-6 school leavers assembly will be held on Wednesday, July 20, at 9.15am in the school hall, everyone is welcome.

Choir

concert Ogmores Valley Male Voice Choir will be performing in the centenary celebrations taking place in Heol-y-Cyw Primary School on Friday, July 15.

Recruits

sought CŌR Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male voice choir) secretary, 'Dixie' Dean, is busily engaged in forming a youth male choir in the Garw Valley.

Contact Mr Dean on: 01656 870304 (daytime) or 01656 871954 (evening); or e-mail pontycymer.po@btconnect.com

POWER MEETING

Sustainable Wales is organising a new Bridgend-based group, and the first public meeting is being held today (July 14) at 7.30pm, in The Green Room, 41 John Street, Porthcawl.

'Power for the People' hopes to support the introduction to households of free PV solar panels and offers a sustainable funding stream to community-based charities and social enterprises which get involved, for 25 years.

REPRESENTATIVE
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Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE?

Church open days

TRINITY Methodist Church in Stanwell Road, Penarth, will be opening its doors to welcome visitors on July 14, 15 and 16, between 10.30am - 4.30pm.

Information on the stained glass windows and the organ can be viewed in the church and organists will be playing at various times.

Ballet school's party

MOYA VAHEY School of Ballet and Ella Shepherd School of Ballet will hold a garden party on Sunday, July 17 at 2.30pm in the Old Hall Gardens, Cowbridge.

Refreshments will be served after the dancing. Family entry is £5, single £3.

The garden party is in aid of Cancer Research Wales.

Diabetes meeting

DIABETES UK Cymru's Vale voluntary group will hold a meeting on July 19 in the board room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, at 7.30pm, when the speaker is Maurine Hillier, podiatrist.

New members welcome. For further information, telephone 01446 746639.

Wildlife fundraiser

ON July 23 at 3pm at 118 Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, Coun Rob Curtis will host a Fairtrade afternoon tea/coffee - to raise funds for WFF.

Tickets are available from Coun Curtis priced at £3 each.

Telephone 01446 736287 for further information.

Barry exhibition

A POPULAR exhibition displaying the work of final-year art students at Barry College has been extended until July 23.

Visitors to the exhibition at Art Central can expect to see a high quality collection of innovative work right across the spectrum of art and design.

The creative approach by students is evident throughout and the exhibition also includes pieces from award-winning student James Frazer.

Art-lovers can also visit the adjoining Barry County Library for a new display of work by the Barry Merchant Navy.

The exhibition commemorates the 70th anniversary of the PS Barry - a paddle steamer, built and named after the town of Barry, which carried the Merchant Navy during the war years.

To commemorate the anniversary, a hand-made nine foot model of the steamer will also be displayed.

Additional information and images of the ship and its workers, many from this area, will reveal fascinating insights into the paddle steam era.

Both exhibitions are free of charge. The Barry College exhibition at Art Central is open every Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm until June 23.

The Barry Merchant Navy exhibition is open during standard library opening hours until July 22.

Vale of Glamorgan Show Wednesday 10th August 2011 Fonmon Castle Park, nr Cardiff Airport

- White Helmets Motorcycle Stunt Team
- South Wales Police Dogs Display
- Cooke & Arkwright Food Hall
- Cardiff Airport Home Produce Show
- Horticultural Show
- Cattle, Pigs, Sheep, Horses, Bees, Falcons
- Craft Fair
- BSJA Show Jumping
- Countryside Area



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A great day out for all the family!

Male voice choir joins brass band for concert

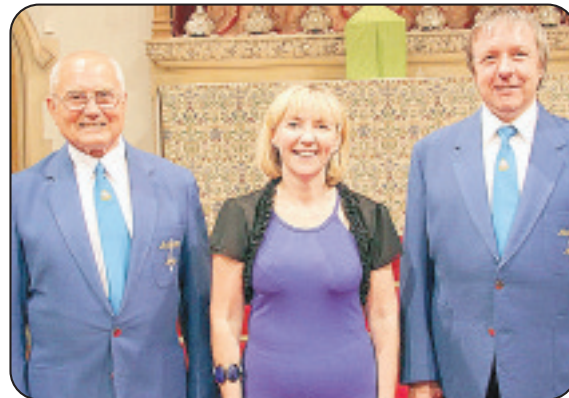
BARRY Male Voice Choir held its recent joint summer concert with Barry Brass Band at St. Mary's Church, Holton Road, in aid of church funds and local charities.

The audience were treated to a varied programme, ranging from the Welsh classic 'Y Fory' to Bob Dylan's 'Blowin' in the Wind'.

The choir rose to the challenge and produced a colourful yet subtle sound orchestrated by the animated direction of Dorothy Connell and the accompaniment of the talented Emma Ascott.

This irresistible combination once again drew an enthusiastic response from the appreciative and knowledgeable audience.

The choir look forward to a busy summer



and autumn, including a joint open air concert in Victoria Park Cadoxton on August 14, their annual concert in October and November's charity concert in St David's Hall in aid of The British Heart

Foundation. All visitors and would-be choristers are welcome at practice on Monday or Thursday in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street at 7.30pm. More information at barry-malevoicechoir.co.uk

ABOVE: Pictured with Barry Male Voice Choir's musical director, Dorothy Connell, are the choir's two newest recruits, Derek James and Bruce Edwards.

CAD's latest production gives Shelter!

COWBRIDGE Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) is performing Temporary Shelter, this week in the Market Theatre, Cowbridge, until Saturday, July 16 at 7.30pm.

Written originally for radio by Rose Tremain, this is the first time the show has been performed on stage.

The play is a comedy, set on a French campsite, and is about two people struggling to break free from their past.

The director, Peter Sain ley Berry, who also adapted the play, said he wished to thank the actors and crew of the production for their unstinting contributions to the success of the performance.

"The play has attracted a lot of attention," he said, "and

tickets have been selling well, so we are hoping for excellent audiences and a great show."

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Pottery find reveals more about history of medieval Cosmeston

A POTTERY vessel dating back to the 13th Century has been found by Cardiff University archaeologists at Cosmeston, shedding new light on medieval life in the area.

The aquamile was found in many fragments at the Manor House site at Cosmeston, near Penarth, and the pieces

were spread over a wide area.

Aquamile were designed to hold water, with which the most distinguished diners at a table could wash their hands.

The discovery reveals the refined nature of life in the manor house and importantly, the archaeologists, from the University's School of History, Archaeology and Religion have identified the pottery as 'Vale Ware'.

This is also the first time such an elegant piece has been found that has been produced by local craftsmen for the local elite.

Professor John Hines of the School of History, Archaeology and Religion, who is leading the dig said: "It became regular practice to shape these aquamile in the form of animals. The one we have found represents a ram.

"It is probably to be dated to the later 13th Century. This is also important, because this was a period when the local lords of the manor, the de Costentin family, were still resident at the manor.

From the mid-1310s they were displaced, and Cosmeston was run directly for greater, ambitious barons, who held large numbers of individual manors at the same time."

For the duration of the excavation at Cosmeston, Cardiff University archaeology students and staff will explain their latest discoveries on free public tours of the site daily at 10.30am and 2.30pm (except Fridays) until July 18. All are welcome and no booking is required.

This Tree will confuse and enthrall – in equal measure

FOR a man who is feted as being one of the finest directors of modern American cinema, Terrence Malick is certainly not one to either over-expose himself.

Notable for his reclusive status, along with a record of four films in 32 years, Malick's movements have been hotly anticipated, particularly as his latest film stars both Sean Penn and Brad Pitt.

Tree Of Life sees Penn play Jack, an architect who, on the anniversary of his brother's death, ponders the nature of life. This takes him back into his childhood, and the relationships he had with his father (Pitt), his mother (Jessica Chastain) and his other brothers...

While cinema is primarily there to entertain (or not in the case of the

latest *Transformers* travesty), there is also room for artistic expression devoid of the need to keep audiences on the edge of their seat.

Terrence Malick's previous films have never been ones that are easily classifiable; *The Thin Red Line* is a war movie, but almost takes pains to separate it from, say, *Saving Private Ryan*. *Tree Of Life* moves in a similar way, the film ostensibly about familial relationships and the nature of grief and loss – yet it also goes far deeper, Malick pondering man's place in the universe and our importance.

If you're thinking that sounds a little too pretentious for your average Friday night with a tub of popcorn then you would be right, but then Malick has never been the sort of man you would find behind the megaphone of a comic book franchise or gross-out comedy. Instead this

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

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is a film that makes nothing of veering between timelines, showing the birth of the universe and even takes in some dinosaur action.

While Malick is seemingly being wilfully obscure, if you let the film percolate in your mind it starts to make sense, the film focusing on man yet highlighting how unimportant we are in the grander scheme of things – yet it is a point that is made with little clarity.

While the shots of gases and lava fit in with

what Malick is attempting to say and looks absolutely beautiful, it does somewhat pull you away from the humanity on show, Malick seemingly teasing the audience by engaging and then distancing them from the characters.

The cast assembled offer up strong turns that sear through Malick's narrative, with Brad Pitt excellent as the father whose iron will and determination distances him from his children, and offers a fractured relationship with his son that drives the film's story.

While Sean Penn's turn as said (grown up) son doesn't really do much, the performance mainly consisting of him wandering around various cityscapes looking lost.

Hunter McCracken's performance as the young Jack is tremendous, the young actor capturing the essence of growing up and the changes, both physical and personal, that occur.

Capping off the strong showings is Jessica Chastain as Jack's mother, the actress being the counterpoint to Pitt's ruling with an iron rod. She too helps propel the film as we see her joy, and her grief, at what happens to her family.

When the film zeroes in on these elements it works incredibly well, Malick's script and direction evoking the sights and feelings of 1950's suburban America and the strained relationships that spring from the setting.

But when the film meanders, and when it does it really does, it feels so indulgent that it almost takes you out of the experience, beautifully shot or otherwise; it makes *Tree Of Life* a film that is easy to admire, a lot less easy to love, and will enthrall and confuse in equal measure.

VERDICT: A film that never shies away from being made wholly on its own terms, *Tree Of Life* is a film that flits between mesmerising and over indulgence – in other words, typically Terrence Malick.

While engaging performances and some gorgeous direction more than hold your attention, it is still a film that won't rest easily in your brain – *Transformers* this most certainly is not!

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Thin Red Line*, 2001: *A Space Odyssey*.

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LEFT: Sergeant Teddy Bear has been seen in Bridgend and the Vale recently raising much-needed funds for the Help for Heroes charity.

'IT WAS AN AMAZING AND EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE' 'Thank you to the public for Help for Heroes response'

A FORMER Llantwit Major serviceman has thanked the public in south Wales for their response to the Help for Heroes collections, which he helped to arrange in Tesco stores on Friday and Saturday, July 1-2.

Rob McCann (59) who served in the RAF regiment for 23 years, was the regional point of contact for mid Glamorgan, and told The GEM: "The two days were both amazing and

by TIM CHAPMAN

emotional – the response from the public was incredible."

Rob, of helped to organise teams in eight Tesco stores covering an area from Merthyr Tydfil down to Bridgend. He helped with collecting at Bridgend Tesco Extra.

"The public helped us reach a regional total of £11,733.28."

"It was great to meet everyone, but emotional because I met a couple of mums whose sons had been badly injured. Some of the things I heard real-

ly pulled at the heart-strings.

"In Talbot Green, a guy turned up on crutches to help with the collections. He had been with the Royal Army Medical Corps and had been blown up in Afghanistan, yet there he was, one of most enthusiastic collectors!"

"With his help, the store came top in the region, collecting £3,674.50."

Rob said that taking on the role of a co-ordinator for Help for Heroes was daunting, tiring, but worthwhile.

His home had become a local HQ for Help for Heroes in the lead up to the two fundraising days, with bucket collecting tins and badges cluttering his lounge in preparation for the big event.

Sergeant Teddy Bear – a Help for Heroes supporter – has become a familiar character in the Vale and Bridgend in recent weeks, so if you ever see him, please give generously.

"Everybody has wanted to help me – neighbours, friends, the Peace and Hope shop in Llantwit Major, even the milkman left a cheque. How often does a milkman do that? Normally, it's the other way round."

"I want to thank everyone who helped with the collections, and all the people who made donations."

Jobs are at risk

AN Italian-owned motor vehicle filter company in Llantrisant has started a 90-day consultation period, with 190 jobs at risk.

Sogefi Filtration has started talks with the Unite union after announcing last week that jobs were at risk due to "difficult market conditions".

A Unite official was reported as saying that the company was looking to restructure.

Celebrating 100 years of schooling at Heol-y-Cyw!

IT was celebration time this week, when Heol-y-Cyw Primary School, marked 100 years of educating young children.

The school's headteacher, Mrs Lynne Bowen-Jones, told The GEM: "Approximately 70,000 children have been taught at the school since 1911!"

"Our records show that there has been nine headteachers leading the school, and I am the sixth-longest in post, and at least 150 teachers have taught here."

She continued: "We are celebrating the school's centenary by having two open days for past pupils, staff and families to visit classrooms and to see the changes made to the school building and grounds

"We held an Edwardian Sports Day yesterday (Wednesday) and there will be an Edwardian Summer Fair tomorrow afternoon (Friday)."

Daily schooling is being done in the old-fashioned way too.

Mrs Bowen-Jones explained: "All pupils have dressed in Edwardian uniform and all staff in Edwardian dress!"

"We started each day with 'Drill', followed by a strict morning assembly! Pupils are sitting in rows for lessons and boys and girls have been separated in the playground for play-times and lunchtimes."

"The chanting of times tables by older pupils echoes through the school each morning. Poems and hymns are being learned 'off by heart' and it's all back to the 'Three Rs'!

"The children have even been given Edwardian names to add to the authenticity!"

The matter of stern old-style discipline has been raised too.

She said: "It is all very serious and strict this week, which includes me checking the pupils' hands and fingernails for cleanliness each day!"

"The presence of my cane has aroused great interest and has been a 'wonderful aid' to silence and respect!"

"Unfortunately, it has been used twice already on two pupils – on one boy for showing a lack of respect and on one girl for having unclean hands!"

"It's aall good fun and the children are really enjoying the Edwardian ethos! It is certainly giving them a taste of the strictness of past schooling and a

deep appreciation of how interesting and appealing their lessons are today in the 21st Century teaching and learning curriculum!"

She added: "While we are celebrating this important event to end the school's 100th journey through time, we are also celebrating memorable accolades Heol-y-Cyw Primary School has achieved over recent years, which includes:

- Three Green Flags for Eco-related work and daily school routines.

- One National Teaching Award for Sustainability.

- Four Healthy School plaques.

- Fairtrade status for two consecutive years.

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN

(Available for purchase from www.RandellJohnPhotography.com or telephone 01656 662324, 07905 676241)



Headteacher Lynne Bowen-Jones enjoying her role play as a stern Edwardian teacher!



Social worker is struck off

THE aftermath of a case that shocked the area has seen a social worker struck off.

The original case came to light when it was revealed that a youth was placed in foster care in 2008 and abused the two children of the foster parents.

It emerged that the foster parents had not been warned about concerns raised over the youth's behaviour.

The teenager was later given an indeterminate prison sentence and the Vale of Glamorgan Council apologised to the family.

Last week, the Care Council of Wales conduct committee found Julian Swan guilty of all four charges against him and struck him off.

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Celebrating 75 years... Wenvoe Castle Golf Club

Festival of golf marks 75th anniversary of Wenvoe Castle

THIS week, Wenvoe Castle Golf Club is holding a festival of golf to celebrate its 75th anniversary, and today (Thursday) it is hosting members of the Wayfarers' golf sections from clubs around south Wales.

by PHILIP IRWIN

In fact, one thing about the eight-day programme that has delighted the club's organisers is the support the festival has attracted from around south Wales. The club is clearly held in high regard by its peers.

The chairman of the competitions and handicaps committee, Barrie Jones, told The GEM:

"Every competition, from Saturday, July 9, until the following Saturday (July 16) has attracted a full entry, with around 150 playing each day.

"Every day has been sponsored by a local car dealership, and local businesses have supported us by sponsoring individual holes."

Hitting a milestone such as a 75th anniversary is a good time to take stock, and Wenvoe Castle has a great deal to be happy about.

After all, it has had a chequered history, losing half the course during World War Two, when the back nine was requisitioned and ploughed up for cereal production.

It took some time after the war (until 1956) to get the full 18 holes back in play, but the club has not looked back since.

When you arrive and take a look around at Wenvoe Castle, the first thing that hits you is the sense of space.

That is true in the



Looking out over the well-manicured course from the terrace.

wing of the castle used for the clubhouse, where there is plenty of room for the golfers, and a first floor where there is a smart function room that is popular for weddings.

It is even more true for the golf course, where you get the feeling that the architect could have squeezed 27 holes into the space available, before he decided to settle for the traditional 18!

The result is that anyone enjoying a day's golf at Wenvoe has none of those irritating moments when you find that the group on the adjoining hole has hit a few wayward shots and are now using your fairway!

The club has also managed to tread the difficult line between providing a course that is a test, but which is not so tough that average golfer suffers agonies getting round!

After all, a day out playing golf should be about counting the pars and (hopefully) birdies that you score, rather than totting up the lost balls!

For anyone reading that paragraph and thinking that I am suggesting that the course is on the easy side, consider this...

It has been a while since the European professional tour has visited south Wales, but Wenvoe hosted a fully fledged event in 1979, when Nick Faldo, Tony Jacklin, Sandy Lyle and Bernard Gallacher – among others – played a 72-hole tournament.



ABOVE: The man who helped lay out the course at Wenvoe Castle is alive and well, living in Ireland at the ripe old age of 98. As a young man, Ivor R Morgan accompanied the legendary golfer James Braid and helped him measure out the course, which eventually opened in 1936. A recent club captain, Chris Tatt, made a special trip to visit Mr Morgan and presented him with a book on the life of James Braid, as a gift from Wenvoe Castle Golf Club.

In the end, it was another future Ryder Cup captain, Mark James, who won with a modest total of six under.

Compare that to last weekend at Castle Stuart, when Luke Donald was 19 under after just 54 holes, and anyone on six under was an also ran!

Barrie Jones added: "We are particularly pleased that the golfers who come for the festival will see the course looking its best, and the greens are as good as they have ever been, thanks to the efforts of our new head greenkeeper Mark Wilshire

and his hard-working staff."

Mr Jones concluded: "Wenvoe Castle has a very active membership and provides a competitive and friendly atmosphere for any prospective new member, whether an experienced golfer or someone looking to take up the game.

"There is no tee time booking other than for some weekend competitions, and there is a members' discount in the bar and restaurant.

"There is excellent coaching from club professional Jason Harris, and any new member receives two free lessons."

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CIVIL CEREMONIES
THE Vale Council has granted approval for Wenvoe Castle Golf Club to be regularly used for the solemnisation of marriages.

The Civil Ceremony will be conducted in the club restaurant by a registrar appointed by Vale Council.



ABOVE:
The buggies are lined up, ready to go.

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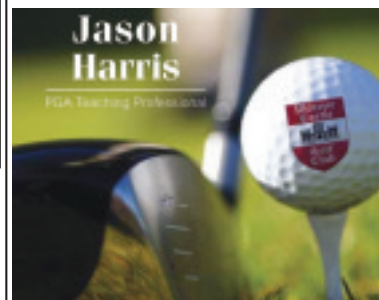
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Visitors enjoy themselves as the Bridgend Show puts on wide range of entertainment

THIS year's Bridgend provided a wide variety of attractions, once again giving visitors plenty to see and do.

Now that the show is established at its Pencoed base, it has become a fixture on the show calendar for exhibitors and the public alike.

The popular show jumping and other equestrian events were watched keenly, and visitors were busy browsing in the craft tents and in the market stalls.

There were dog, poultry and other livestock classes for the show competitors to enter, and for the public to enjoy!

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN

(Available for purchase from
www.RandellJohnPhotography.com or
telephone 01656 662324, 07905 676241)



Vale MP gets progress report on new school

VALE MP Alun Cairns met head-teacher Helen Jennings to view the progress on the site of the new Welsh medium primary school in Llantwit Major recently.

The new school, named Ysgol Dewi Sant, will open in September 2011.

Mr Cairns viewed the plans and heard about the development of the building works on the site, which is adjacent to Llantwit Major Comprehensive.

Building and installation of the self-contained demountable unit will be completed in time for the start of the new school term in



Alun Cairns MP and Helen Jennings don their hard hats, to check progress on the new school.

September.

Mr Cairns said: "I was able to see the layout for the two new classrooms, hall, staff room, office and canteen areas, and work was underway on the main access and car parking areas."

"I understand the demountable unit elements are to be delivered within the next

couple of weeks, which will be another huge milestone in the programme."

The demand for Welsh medium schools continues to rise in the Vale, and in September 2011, Ysgol Dewi Sant will open with an intake for nursery and reception class pupils.

Mrs Jennings will lead Ysgol Dewi Sant, while retaining her existing headteacher role at Llanilltud Fawr Primary.

The school is scheduled to grow incrementally, by taking an additional year group each September until the school has seven year groups.

Didn't we all do well at this year's Glamorgan WI show?

PENLLYN and District WI's June craft evening was used to organise entries for the Glamorgan WI Show and this was rewarded, when we discovered how well we had done!

The show was held in North Cornely on July 9, and we won both the Shield (for most entries) and the Salver (for most prize points) in our category of 'Institutes with under 40 members.'

Many thanks to all members who entered the various classes, and congratulations to our winners.

The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, July 5, when president Novello Peters explained that the intended speaker was

PENLLYN AND DISTRICT WI

unfortunately unable to attend, and introduced Margaret Rogers, who had kindly stepped in to fill the breach at the last minute.

Margaret told us all about Denman College, (the WI's own college), explained its history, and gave details of accommodation and courses available to members.

This was appropriate, as we are planning a day's visit to Denman College.

Information was given regarding various forthcoming local and federation events, and

last-minute reminders regarding the show.

Members were encouraged to take and enter photographs for the 2013 federation calendar, the theme is 'Glimpses of Glamorgan', and we were informed that one of our members has had a photograph included in the new 2012 calendar.

Novello Peters delivered a report on the NFWI AGM held in Liverpool, last month.

Members agreed to renovate our WI banner in time for the Glamorgan Federation's

90th anniversary (December 2012 – December 2013).

There will be no meeting in August, so the next meeting will be on September 5 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Chris Williams will be talking about 'Lighthouses.'

New members are always warmly welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August), at 7.30pm in Penllyn Village Hall. For further information contact Novello on 01656 674191 or Marjorie (01656 647115).

MN

Insight into the Japanese way of life

ON July 5, members of Llanharry WI were given an insight into Japanese customs by Madori Pritchard, who was dressed in the traditional kimono.

A fascinating account of the Japanese way of life was given, including the different ways they greet each other, where they live and what they eat.

Madori brought along a kimono, white socks and shoes that are traditionally worn for ceremonies such as weddings and

LLANHARRY WI

funerals. She demonstrated how to put on a kimono using Liz Jervis as her model.

The competition 'a Japanese item', attracted an amazing amount of entries. Rita Butt was the worthy winner, and her picture of a Japanese lady was magnificent. The raffle was won by Jill Rosser for the second month running.

The business meeting followed and it was announced that sadly,

Inga Wyatt, a former member had suddenly passed away.

Pauline Charles (secretary) and Margaret Howells were welcomed back after illnesses.

The report of the AGM at Liverpool from Margaret Price, Link delegate, Bontfaen WI was given out, as well as the monthly newsletter.

Members are looking forward to their summer trip on August 2 to Avon Railway and Bath. The itinerary was finalised and fine weather ordered. JR

Guild meeting

A REPORT in last week's GEM referred to a talk given by Mrs Eileen Younghusband.

The GEM would like to make it clear that she gave the talk to Barry Townswomen's Guild, not Penarth.

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'DIRTY SANCHEZ' MAN MEETS HIS MATCH IN SULLY!



Alex Symonds (Cardiff Devils) Matthew Martin, Matthew Pritchard (from Dirty Sanchez).

DIRTY Sanchez stunt man Matthew Pritchard and his mate, Cardiff Devils ice hockey player Alex Symonds dropped into Ty Hafan recently to spend time with some of the children, young people and their families.

They were given special permission to enter the hallowed teenage den, where Matthew's skill on the PlayStation was tested by another Matthew, 18-year-old Matthew Martin, who challenged the star to WWF wrestling.

Needless to say Pritch lost!

"It was great to chat to some of the families and spend time with some of the kids. It was very

humbling to learn just what they are all going through on a daily basis," commented Pritch.

"Ty Hafan seems to be very much about giving the kids and their families a helping hand whenever and whenever it's needed.

"It also seems to give families time to be families again, something which they often find hard to achieve because of the unbelievably diffi-

cult situations they go through.

"Symonds, my brother and I, and another mate of ours are doing an Iron Man Challenge for Ty Hafan at the end of July.

"We've had ace support from people out there, so it's really good to see where all the money is going and how much of a difference we all can make to these families' lives on a regular basis."

Dyffryn Gardens celebrates the last part of restoration work

VALE Deputy Mayor, Coun Katherine Kemp, welcomed over 50 guests to the opening of the new glasshouses at Dyffryn Gardens.

It was the final stage of a 14-year restoration programme of the gardens, which has been supported by the Vale Council and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £6.15m.

This investment has seen the gardens transformed and visitor numbers have risen from a low point of just 8,000 to the current annual attendance of 55,000.

The Deputy Mayor commented: "This is an exciting time for

Dyffryn and the glasshouses will be a great asset to the Vale for both its residents and visitors."

She went on to thank all those involved in bringing the project to fruition and after opening the glasshouse invited guests to view the two new botanical collections.

The central section has a substantial mature cacti collection, relocated from north Yorkshire from a private collector.

The orchid house has a plant collection reflecting those introduced in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Later in the year, the west section will be planted as a vineyard.

TOWN WALL UNVEILING

Read all about the unveiling of the Cowbridge town walls on pages 20 and 21

Barry fun day helps Welsh cancer charity



A charity fun day for Research Wales recently raised more than £2,000.

The event took place at St Francis Millennium Centre in Barry and attracted a variety of stalls – the Body Shop, Usbourne Books, Phoenix Cards, a bric-a-brac stall, hand-made craft, jewellery stalls, mini hand massage and face-painting.

The bouncy castle was donated free by Che Hunter of Bounce Play Inflatables and was a big hit! The event was photographed by Alicia Roberts Photography.

Organiser Rachel Williams said: "I am

hoping this will be the start of an annual event to raise money for a fantastic charity.

"I am extremely lucky and haven't lost anyone to cancer, but a few close friends have and this is the reason I chose to organise a 'fun-

day' to show support to the charity that helped my friends' relatives through their tough times.

"This event was very special to a dear friend of mine, Claire Doore who lost her mum last November."

INDIAN ORPHANAGE BENEFIT EVENT

BETHANIA Presbyterian Church, Pendoylan, is organising a special afternoon tea on Saturday, July 16 at 2.30pm to raise funds for the Home of Love orphanage in Mizoram, north-east India.

The orphanage cares for up to 50 children from three days old to the age of four. Priority is given to babies who have lost their mothers and those whose mothers suffer chronic diseases

The orphanage is built on a steep hill with no water supply or central heating. The appeal launched by the Presbyterian Church of Wales in January, is hoping to raise £20,000 by August.

This will be used to pay for additional water storage tanks, central heating, an industrial washing machine and dryer, as well as helping towards costs of running the orphanage.

Rev Dr Sangkhuma, from Mizoram, will speak about the orphanage and Hearts of Worship. Liz and Sharon will be singing, followed by tea served outside (weather permitting). The cost is £5 for adults, and children are free.

Ty Hafan weekly lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D678.

● The rollover, which now stands at £500, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 139848.

● £10: 728767; 388816; 642869; 457910; 187388; 879618; 308284; 308912; 610951; 220582; 290543; 313249; 675825;

801896; 163427; 569029; 991609; 542144; 531232; 208342; 821272; 607443; 793794; 638575; 161850.

● £5: 853804; 839964; 932392; 718064; 786194; 441689; 395761; 250262; 307985; 521469; 300773; 487474; 287951; 225296; 427949; 137807; 872857; 164816; 263352; 239481; 636959; 562101; 888778; 756881;

735688; 824835; 593373; 712173; 787000; 876324; 607827; 779568; 724867; 607586; 495978; 782976; 320822; 175912; 896976;

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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Fitting solar pv (photo-voltaic) panels to your roof can slash your energy bills and give returns far higher than

savings or even bonds. The chance to produce clean, green energy may be enough on its own, though.

The first step on this path is to contact an MCS-accredited installer, who will give advice about what size and type of system that is suitable for your needs.

Having chosen a system, installation should take only two or three days. With your electricity supplier contacted and your claim processed, there's plenty of time to get back to the garden while you harvest the sun from your roof!

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HOME IMPROVEMENT IS ON THE UP AND UP

INCREASING numbers of home owners in Wales are deciding to improve their home, rather than move – according to new research from RICS.

Overall, 36 per cent of chartered surveyor estate agents in Wales revealed the slow sales market is prompting

people to improve their properties rather than move.

For those doing work to their homes, 31 per cent of surveyors in Wales reported that it was off-road parking that added the most value.

Traditional improvements add value.

Surveyors also noted that costs incurred for improvements will not

always be covered by the potential increase in a property's value, as this also depends on the quality of work and other features of the property, such as its style and location.

TOP TIPS FROM RICS

Don't be tempted to over-value an improvement and expect high instant returns irrespective of market conditions

If extending, make sure that the accommodation provided (i.e. property size) is balanced with the size of the plot, bigger is not always better

When undertaking a loft extension or basement conversion, try to keep the style of the new rooms in sympathy with the style of the rest of the property.

A modern extension on a traditional property may look odd and lose

appeal

If you are trying to sell, bear in mind most areas have a ceiling price, that is, a maximum sale price you can expect to achieve.

Improving a poor property in a good location is better than improving a good property in a poor location

Don't bite off more than you can chew – stick to a budget and ask the experts for advice.

David Dalby, the professional groups director for RICS, said: "Most properties provide some potential for expansion and improvement, but we would advise people to think about how much they are investing, and their key motivation, before undertaking major projects."

"It is important to think about the style and age of the property before undertaking any works."

"Remember, what appeals to some people, may not appeal to others."

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Looking to the skies to solve energy problems

MORE and more home-owners are now looking at different ways to make their home more energy efficient.

Campaigners argue that climate change threatens the basic elements of life and the people most affected will be those who are already the most vulnerable around the world.

Average global temperatures, argue campaigners, could increase by 4 degrees Celsius in the next 80 years.

Energy and electricity prices are also set to increase dramatically.

For many people, it is

much bigger than a home heating problem. As such this is as much a social issue as an environmental one.

A great deal of attention is being paid, in particular, to solar energy.

Solar energy can be captured by solar panels, and there are two main types of such panels, and they use different technologies to make energy from the sun:

- Solar Water Heating collectors: These panels absorb the energy from the sun and transfer it to heat water.

- Photovoltaic or solar electric panels: These panels transform the solar radiation

directly into electricity.

For maximum efficiency, solar panels should be mounted on a south facing roof at a 30° angle. Obviously, they need to be away from shadows from trees, and if nearby buildings or chimneys cast a shadow, this needs to be taken into account.

One group looking at the social aspect of solar panels is Porthcawl-based Sustainable Wales, which has launched an initiative called 'Power to the People' – which aims to support the introduction of free PV solar panels and offers a funding stream to charities and social enterprises who get involved.

The director of Sustainable Wales, Margaret Minihinnick, said: "Sustainable Wales is currently working alongside a new consortium of social enterprises across south Wales."

"Our ambition for phase one is to help 5,000 south-facing low-income households install maintenance-free, pv solar panels."

"We need a group of people who are willing to help develop this project."

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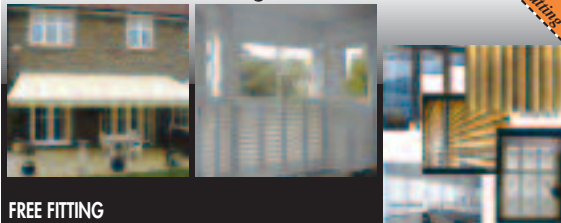
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Cowbridge Town Walls Celebration

(sponsored by Cowbridge Charter Trust)

taking place at the Old Hall Grounds

The Charter Trust: how it all began

COWBRIDGE Charter Trust began its life in 2003, with the support of 200 patrons.

ITS first and foremost task was to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the town's first borough charter, granted on March 13, 1254, by Richard de Clare, the Lord of Glamorgan.

Those celebrations began with a visit by HRH the Prince of Wales, who, on St David's Day, visited Holy Cross Church, and met children and representatives of numerous community groups in the town.

On Saturday, March 13, 2004, 750 years after the granting of the first charter, the entire town joined in an impressive celebration involving a community parade, a march past by all three armed forces and a fly-past by the Royal Air Force.

Alongside these events, Knights of Old set up a medieval encampment, strolling street entertainers and musicians roamed the streets and children's shows formed part of a celebration enjoyed all day long by thousands of spectators in warm sunshine.

On November 6, the Charter Trust launched the town's first food and drink festival, and this has grown to

become one of the foremost in Wales and a key part of the town's continued autumn/winter programme.

That first food festival was so successful that it has been adopted by an independent organisation separate from the Charter Trust and continues to attract thousands of people.

In 2005, a donation of £500 was provided by the Charter Trust, enabling progress to be made on the Physic Garden and in May 2005, a sealed lead capsule containing items of contemporary life in the town was buried in the town hall, to be opened in the year 2254. A four-day jazz festival was organised in the town during June of the same year, 2005.

Charter Trust secretary at the time, Harry Hailes, said: "It was a period of frantic activity for everyone involved in the Trust and in all the events in the town, but was great fun and a really worthy celebration of our historical inheritance."

Town Wall triumph: The story of a restoration scheme achieved just in time

THE town walls of Cowbridge were close to catastrophic failure before the Charter Trust came forward with an 11th-hour rescue that recovered the situation from a complete disaster.

THIS is the opinion of structural engineering consultant, Peter Jones, who piloted the reconstruction work through to completion, saving an historic monument, parts of which have a 700-year-old footprint.

Through the initiative of three principal figures, Jeff Alden, Bruce McGovern and Luke Millar, (sadly all three now deceased), the disaster was recognised and averted – but only at the very last moment, for one section of the walls collapsed shortly after the restoration work began.

Mr Jones said: "Those alert people who recognised the imminent dangers that existed, deserve the wholehearted thanks of every citizen of this town, for without their foresight, entire large sections of the walls could have collapsed, lives could have been put at risk and a shameful legacy would have followed."

He continued: "It was the initiative of Luke Millar that drove the restoration scheme through to conclusion. As chairman of the Charter Trust at the time, he was a man of considerable vision and acumen."

"The eventual restoration process reflects great credit on the Charter Trust and its officers, especially Percy Robson, the treasurer, and Harry Hailes, the then secretary. It stands as a model example of

what may be achieved through good planning, initiative and commonsense.

"The outcome is a restoration programme devised and achieved through-out by local initiative, using local skills and local labour. I cannot think of a better example anywhere of the Big Society in action, because it has been a very significant triumph for the town."

Acting on the instructions of the Vale Council more than a decade ago, an independent team of consultants confirmed that the walls were in serious need of substantial renovation, estimating that a programme combining repair and restoration would cost in excess of £400,000; their costs for surveying and preparing their report was in excess of £30,000.

Although the walls are in the ownership of the Vale Council, those costs were beyond their reach and a serious dilemma arose against the ticking time bomb of potential catastrophic structural failure.

Urged on by Luke Millar, the Charter Trust took up the cause and offered the Vale Council an alternative scheme that could be achieved at a cost of just £47,000, plus a further £13,000 for other items including ball finials based on designs traced by Robert Cope through ragnments of original stones found in Old Hall Gardens.

Robert Cope also contributed by designing the new wooden gate in the south wall, which matches the gates in the Physic Garden.

Peter Jones' Vale Consultancy provided professional services on a voluntary basis to the Charter Trust, who acted as agents to the Vale Council.

Drawings, specifications and contract documents were prepared and tenders sought from four local stonemasons.

Kinsale were awarded the contract by the Charter Trust and commenced work

at the end of 2009, having demonstrated their sound track record with the specialist skills in working on limestone walls by using lime mortar instead of cement, which had incorrectly been used in repairs to the town walls in the distant past.

Peter Jones said: "Before all this began, I carried out a visual inspection by walking the top of the walls, to find that in two or three places it had lost its structural integrity, with water having poured into voids for many years causing bulging through the consequence of frost during winter months."

"Quite honestly, it was horrifying – the concrete cappings had cracked badly on top of the structure, which in many places were exposed to the ravages of the elements. It was clear to me that a restoration programme wasn't just urgent, but absolutely crucial."

"A debt of gratitude must also be accorded to the volunteers, who helped clear away the huge amount of undergrowth, including trees, brambles and other vegetation that had invaded the walls over decades."

"While the volunteers hacked back this detritus, most of it had to be poisoned so that it could not invade the walls again, otherwise a new threat would have occurred."

Mr Jones added: "I'm absolutely clear in my own mind that this restoration scheme represents a landmark project for Cowbridge because it ensures that the walls can now stand as a symbol of sound local initiative."

"It's a proud achievement, not only for Cowbridge and the Charter Trust, but for Wales as a whole, because we're a nation proud of our historic relics. They define us and are an essential part of our lifeblood."



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the Trust's work in
the ongoing renewal
programme for Old Hall
Gardens, our valued
next door neighbour!

*The late
Luke Miller*





Join us Saturday, July 16, from 1.30pm

New big ticket scheme for Cowbridge under consideration by the Charter Trust

COWBRIDGE Charter Trust is seeking to bring forward a new and creative initiative that could add a beneficial change to the social and cultural life of the town, the Trust's chairman, Hugh Field, says.

"We're not in a position to spell out our proposal in a specific way at this early stage, because there are several obstacles to overcome, together with several difficulties that could be seriously demanding.

"Suffice to say that if the project we have in mind does come into being, its impact will be considerable and is likely to be welcomed by all the town's citizens," he said.

High Field continued: "The Charter Trust is an organisation dedicated to improving the life of the town in aesthetic, as well as in practical ways, by working in concert with the Vale and the town council, as well as other

related groups.

Since our formation, we have brought forward a number of projects that have added colour and imagination to the life of the town, including the food and drink festival, the church lighting programme and essentially the crucial work to restore and regenerate the town walls.

"We are not a wealthy organisation, far from it, so we have to ensure that the projects we support bring lasting value to Cowbridge and its environs, because that is a mission we cherish," he explained.

Mr Field said that the restoration of the town walls had been a triumph of achievement for local initiative and talent, at one fifth of the cost first envisaged by consultants working for the Vale Council.

He said: "It is this kind of vision that marks out Cowbridge as a special town, with much talent in its ranks to tackle schemes, no matter how large or difficult.

The townspeople of Cowbridge and Llanblethian are cordially invited...

to a free event on Saturday, July 16 starting at 1.30pm to celebrate the completion of restoration works on the 700-year-old town walls:

- 1.30pm Music by the St Athan Voluntary Band of the RAF.
- 2pm Fanfare.
- 2.05pm Speeches by Mr Hugh Field (chairman, Cowbridge Charter Trust) and by Capt Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards (president).
- 2.20pm Entertainment by the Belladonna Choir.
- 2.50pm A humorous pageant presented by Cowbridge CADS.
- 3.15pm Tea break and more music by the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band.
- 4pm A ceilidh (presented by the

band Thingumy Jigs).

6.30pm Programme closes.

Please note that, save for invited guests, there will be no seats provided and visitors are asked to bring with them either folding chairs, folding stools or rugs.

Light refreshments provided by Cowbridge Fairtrade Action Group may be purchased from an annexe at the rear of Old Hall.

At the start of the ceilidh; from 4pm onwards, Goldie, the Pontyclun Samosa Company will be offering their fare for sale. A licensed bar will be available from 4.30pm offering beer, lager, red and white wine, plus soft drinks for purchase.

In the event of inclement weather this event will transfer to Cowbridge Town Hall.

"I can only praise all those who have given us such devoted support, especially the volunteers now working on the restoration programme for Old Hall Gardens.

That people are prepared to come forward and give their time to such worthwhile schemes is deeply appreciated and gratifying," he added.

Old Hall grounds make-over is close to completion...

CHEEK by jowl with the Physic Garden, Old Hall Gardens are close to seeing the completion of a sensitive make-over that will give a regenerational face-lift to a favoured location in the heart of the Cowbridge – the treasured Old Hall Grounds.

For many many years the grounds were a walk-through zone as townfolk made their way to the library or the former health centre, now the St Aubin's Nursery.

In short, the grounds had become an adjunct, much in need of some tender loving care, *writes Linda Osborn.*

In recognition of this, Cowbridge Charter Trust conceived a complementary scheme to enhance the even more ambitious concurrent project to restore the town walls. Because the first step of the walls project was the stripping of dense vegetation, an enormous area of habitat was destroyed.

The aim of the grounds plan was to repair this loss by restoring and increasing the variety of habitats for wildlife and at the same time creating a lovelier space for Cowbridge townfolk and visitors alike.

Thus, in 2009, the Charter Trust entered into a partnership with the Vale Council to raise capital to restore the grounds. It was work that could not have been achieved without the constructive help of the team at Creative Rural Communities, which from the start was central to the success of the enterprise, enabling a substantial grant from European funds for rural regeneration.

Current work is engaging the Trust in the task of planting schemes for the old restored beds and creating new ones, along with a wildflower meadow. It may look a work in progress at present, but in the fullness of time will prosper to become a special delight.

Everyone engaged in this project is a volunteer and the specialist skilled work has been carried out by local craftsmen. We have been particularly well served by Kelynn and Hywel Darke, the stonemasons, by Darren Greenslade who laid the paving around the pond, and by Ron Hitchings's company, who installed the lights – not forgetting David Bradbury, the painter.

We'd like help from The GEM's readers for two

important additional tasks: we need more benches so we would welcome contributions from anyone prepared to help with sponsorship, even for part of a bench, and we'd be delighted if some additional volunteers could emerge to help us maintain the grounds henceforward.

We meet as a regular working party every Thursday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm; you don't have to be an experienced gardener, as there's always an expert on hand to give advice.

Come and discover the sheer pleasure of sharing the creation of a lovely green space, one in the fine chain of neighbouring spaces running parallel to the Hugh Street, Poplars Park, Holy Cross churchyard, the Physic Garden and now Old Hall grounds, offering refuge from the busy life outside, comprising peaceful havens beyond price in a stressful world.

For more information, please come to the Cowbridge Charter Trust's Town Walls celebration on Saturday, July 16 (from 2pm to 6.30pm), talk to one of our trustees (Hugh Field, our chairman, Dick Tonkin, secretary, Percy Robson, treasurer, Peter Jones, Alan Crossley, Mike Meredith, Sue Cox, Mike Fahey); or by phone contact me, Linda Osborn on 07917-331517; otherwise come and see us in the grounds on Thursday mornings.

STOP PRESS

As The GEM went to press, Cowbridge Charter Trust learned that it had won a special commendation for its ongoing programme of work of restoration on Old Hall Gardens.

The award comes from the Vale Council's biodiversity partnership, who concluded during an inspection that the scheme had "great potential".

The inspectors were specially impressed by the various areas of biodiversity being developed as part of the project by the Trust.

Trust chairman, Hugh Field said: "On the eve of our celebration next Saturday to mark the completion of restoration work on the town walls, linked with the Old Hall Garden project, this is very encouraging news for all our volunteers who have worked with such application to give the garden a facelift.

"I feel certain that, on completion, it will serve as an attractive complement to the exquisite Physic Garden next door."



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Local power station's support leads to an innovative greenhouse

Matthew Hughes with the Llanilltud Fawr Primary School Eco-committee and their plastic bottle greenhouse.



ABERTHAW Power Station donated funds that helped the Llanilltud Fawr Primary School's eco-committee to create a greenhouse using plastic drinks bottles.

The donation enabled foundations to be prepared, including drainage gravel as well, as some materials had to be bought to construct the skeleton of the greenhouse.

Every pupil in the school

school supported the project by collecting and bringing to school the 1,500 two-litre drinks bottles needed to create the truly 'green' house!

Pupils from each year helped to wash and cut the bottles to size and thread them on to bamboo sticks that form the roof and walls of the greenhouse.

"It is very impressive," said Matthew Hughes, Abertaw Power Station financial controller, when he met the school's Eco committee. "It is very effective

and a great way of recycling and re-using the plastic bottles."

The Eco committee, made up of a boy and girl from each class, are elected each year. The members chose the design that they had seen used at the neighbouring comprehensive school.

Now that the greenhouse project is complete and being used by the school gardening club and their fellow pupils, the committee is working on its next plan – an eco-awareness day for the whole school.

Calendar girls' tribute is village fete highlight!

COLWINSTON & LLYSWORNEY WI

AT the July meeting, the speaker was Helen Payne, a bee-keeper who lives in Colwinston, who explained the history of beekeeping and showed us various boxes and equipment.

She talked about swarms of bees, one of which she had caught recently.

These bees will not be productive until next year. Helen gave us all a list of garden plants which are beneficial to bees and also talked

about the benefits of local honey to the immune system. We will all be queuing at her door when she has her next batch ready.

At the Colwinston village fete on July 2, six members (undressed as Calendar Girls on the WI float. Great fun was had by all and we made lots of people smile.

The next meeting is in September, but prior to that the WI will be holding a produce show in the hall on September 3. **KJ**

Local contact for Help for Heroes

A Help for Heroes ambassador in the Vale is willing to help people who want to raise funds for the charity at local events.

James Huxtable, aged 19, of Llantwit Major, told The GEM: "My role involves acting as the voice and ambassador for Help for Heroes within the Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Rhosce and Barry areas.

"It is also my responsibility to assist with any events that are happening in these areas.

"I can give talks and provide advice on events that need to be set up.

If there are any school fetes or fairs in the Vale that would like Help for Heroes to be there, then I am the main contact."

To contact James please call 07809868885; or email j.e.huxtable@talktalk.net.

Searching for good citizens!

COWBRIDGE with Llanblethian Town Council will again honour citizens who make a substantial voluntary contribution, which enhances the quality of life of individuals and/or the community.

A council spokesman explained: "Although some individuals and family groups may have shown their appreciation for this quality support, the town council feels that there should be public recognition of such voluntary efforts.

"This is the ninth year for the Award for Good Citizenship to be made since its conception in 2003.

"Any group or individual, living within the area served by the town

council, can nominate a person for the award, which takes the form of a certificate and will be presented to the recipient by the mayor on a date to be arranged.

"Nominations are now invited for this year's award and forms are available from the town clerk's office during office hours, Monday to Friday 9am-1pm.

"The forms should give a brief outline about the person being nominated, who may live outside the area, provided that the voluntary work carried out is within the area."

The council welcomes completed applications from all age groups.

The closing date for their return is August 15.

Social worker is struck off

THE aftermath of a case that shocked the Vale has seen a social worker struck off.

The original case came to light when it was revealed that a youth was placed in foster care in 2008 and abused the two children of the foster parents.

It emerged that the foster parents had not been warned about concerns raised over the youth's behaviour.

The teenager was later given an indeterminate prison sentence and the Vale Council apologised to the family.

Last week, the Care Council of Wales conduct committee found Julian Swan guilty of all four charges against him and struck him off.



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NEW ON THE MARKET

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £265,000

Modern four bedroom detached house with integral Garage and Conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Two en-suite facilities, Family Bathroom, Gas central heating, Double glazed windows. Driveway and established gardens to front and rear. Ref 596D

NEW ON THE MARKET

LLANTWIT MJOR - £176,000

Modern three bedroom semi detached house and garage situation in a sought after area comprising Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining area with French doors to rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom/WC, UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Good gardens to front and rear. Ref 598D

NEW ON THE MARKET

ST ATHAN - £99,000

Well maintained and presented two bedroom end of terrace house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Modern Bathroom, UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Open plan garden to front and enclosed rear garden. Allocated parking. Viewing recommended. Ref 599D

NEW ON THE MARKET

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £210,000

Three bedroom detached house and garage situated in a sought after area comprising Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Utility area, Rear Porch, Modern Bathroom, UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway and neatly laid gardens to front and rear. Ref 602D

NEW ON THE MARKET

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £650,000

Grade II listed stone built 17th century cottage which has many original features including Inglenook fireplace, prominent stonework, beams. Currently registered Bed & Breakfast. Spacious accommodation - Three reception rooms, Farmhouse Kitchen and Utility Room, Five Bedrooms most of which have en-suite facilities. Cellar/Workshop. Extensive gardens which run down to Ogney Brook. Ref 603D

NEW ON THE MARKET

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £175,000

Modern two bedroom semi detached bungalow with garage and conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen/ Breakfast Room, Bathroom. Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Good size driveway. Garden to the front and established rear garden runs down to Ogney Brook. Ref 604D

NEW PRICE

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £365,000

Individually designed detached four bedroom house with double garage comprising Hallway, Living Room, Dining Room, Study, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom, En-suite to master bedroom and luxury family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating systems. Long driveway and good size gardens. Excellent condition throughout. Viewing recommended. Ref 515D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £275,000

Stone built three bedroom semi-detached cottage and detached garage with rural outlook comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Living Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room with Rayburn, Utility Room. En-suite shower room, Bathroom. Oil fired heating. Wood burning stoves. Driveway and large gardens. Freehold. Ref 573D

NEW PRICE

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £255,000

Circa 1800 stone built semi detached cottage situated in the West End which has been refurbished and renovated comprising Porch, Living room with inglenook fireplace, Dining room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Two bedrooms, En-suite bathroom, Shower Room, Double glazed box sash windows. Gas central heating. Oak flooring. Walled garden to front and terraced garden to the rear £255,000 Ref 588D

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'RISING STANDARDS' ARE PRAISED BY JUDGE AT BEST KEPT VILLAGE PRESENTATION EVENING



ABOVE and right: Michaelston-le-Pit receiving first prize.

by **RICHARD SKINNER**
(secretary to the Best
Kept Village committee)



ABOVE: Sharne
Williams of Gileston
is presented with
third prize.



ABOVE: Peter Lever of Ystradowen
receiving second prize.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village Competition 2011 came to a climax in Ystradowen Village Hall last Friday at the annual dinner.

Following a very enjoyable meal of roast topside of beef, Yorkshire pudding and all the trimmings, served up by the White Lion, Ystradowen, the chief judge announced this year's winners.

We were lucky to have as our judge Maj Dan Clayton-Jones, chairman of the Cowbridge Physic Garden. He had visited the five villages that entered the competition this year and gave a brief report on his findings.

He said that it was about 10 years since he last had the task of judging the finalist villages for this competition and in the intervening years standards have risen noticeably.

He had failed to find a single item of litter in any one of the villages, even so much as a cigarette end... All the church yards had been immaculate – perhaps a little too much so for his taste! He made this plea; where possible, he feels it is a good idea to set aside an area dedicated to wild-life.

All the villages judged were found to be well maintained. However, there were small differences and he said that there were two extremely good villages at the top which were separated by small differences only.

Then there had been two further villages which he had placed as equals at third place and a fifth village which was just a little below the others.

The winner he announced was Michaelston-le-Pit, where the villagers had done a superb job and shown a marked degree of imagination and innovation.

They had even set up a small lending library in their red village telephone kiosk.

In second place was Ystradowen, which has its wonderful flower beds next to its lay-by.

In joint third place were Gileston and Wenvoe, two markedly different villages by their size alone.

Wenvoe is very large and is to be very much commended for the massive effort which must go into keeping on top of all the tidying, sweeping and

weed removal. Gileston, too, was remarkably well kept and had a newly-installed triangular flower bed at the centre of the village.

In fifth place was Llanmaes which Dan said had been a pleasure to drive through and look at; it is well cared for and has attractive features.

Michaelston-le-Pit was presented with the winner's cup which was first presented in 1953 when it had been won by St Nicholas at the start of this competition.

Michaelston also received a cheque for £500 and thanks to our new and generous sponsors; Ffos Las Racecourse and Conference Centre, four tickets for a day at the races and a meal for four in their prestigious restaurant over looking the Ffos Las race track.

The other villages received prize money totalling £850. We are indebted to all our sponsors for the grants we receive to enable us to make these awards, the others being; Cemex, The Vale Council, town and community councils in the Vale. Dyffryn Gardens supports our children's competition.

Special feature awards were also presented on Friday night. These are presented to entries which either improve a derelict corner in a village or introduce an environmental feature.

The winners of these awards were: the Wenvoe Elizabethan Orchard Project and Rhosce Primary School, Bank Improvement Project.

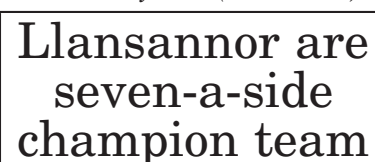
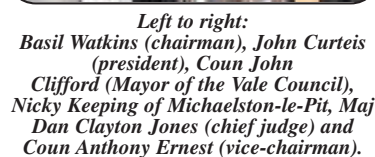
In his summing up speech, Basil Watkins reminded those present at the dinner that this was his last year as chairman.

He had enjoyed his 47 years involvement with the competition, but nature had now advised him it was time to stop. He would remain in post until the end of this year to enable his successor to be appointed and help him, or her, with the handover.

Asked what the requirements for the position were, he replied: "Someone with a love of the Vale and a desire to retain its proud traditions and rural nature."

(Note: The BKV committee is also looking for a new secretary).

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
HEATHER MARCH**



FIVE local primary schools competed in the annual Cowbridge Rotary Club seven-a-side tournament held at St Davids Primary School, Colwinston, on Friday, July 8.

Teams from St Davids, Llansannor, Llangan, St Nicholas and Y Bont Faen competed in a closely fought tournament

Left to right:

Basil Watkins (chairman), John Curteis (president), Coun John Clifford (Mayor of the Vale Council), Nicky Keeping of Michaelston-le-Pit, Maj Dan Clayton Jones (chief judge) and Coun Anthony Ernest (vice-chairman).

Llansannor are seven-a-side champion team

School pupils learn the joys of gardening!



EXCITED nursery and primary school children gathered in Dyffryn Gardens St Nicholas, for the results and awards of the children's section of the Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village Competition.

Winners in Category A (for 6-11 year olds) were Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School, with Ashgrove School second.

Third were St Andrews Major Church in Wales Primary School, and fourth and highly commended were Y Bont Faen.

Judges were Mrs Barbara Hodges and Mrs Mary Ponting, who judged 13 entries.

Mrs Hodges said: "All the gardens were different, both in size and design, but all had a good mixture of plants."

"We saw fantastic fruit and vegetables and beautiful flowers."

She particularly liked an old chair that had been made into a floral seat, and the variety of containers.

The judges were glad to know that parents, grandparents and teachers gave valuable advice and help.

In the nursery classes there were 11 entries

judged by Mrs Pamela Robins and Mrs Christine Kelly – 1st Cogan Nursery, 2nd Cadroxton Nursery, 3rd Eagleswell Nursery, Llantwit Major, 4th and very highly commended, Y Bont Faen Nursery and highly commended, Bute Cottage Nursery School and Llansannor Church in Wales Nursery.

Mrs Robins said that difficult judging was rewarded with the warm welcome, enthusiasm and dedication of all the schools.

She said that mini-beast hunting was a very

popular pursuit, and almost every school had a bug-hotel or even one magnificent mini-beast mansion.

She was delighted to hear that in every school, 're-use and recycle' was the theme, and thought that if every person in the Vale did what the nursery schools are doing, there would be no waste disposal problem.

After a splendid tea, children were invited to take part in a scarecrow making workshop, organised by the Dyffryn staff and some scary figures were assembled to take back to school.

**Photographs by
Heather March**

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Vale athletes are in action for Wales

THREE Vale boys face their biggest challenge of the track and field season to date, when they compete for Welsh Schools this Saturday (July 16) at the Cardiff International Sports Stadium in the Aviva SIAB (Schools International Athletic Board) under-17 international.

The event, one of the most prestigious and demanding in the summer programme, brings together the 280 top under-17 athletes from years 10 and 11 representing England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The event rotates around the four countries and this year it is the turn of Wales to host.

The three boys were selected to compete following impressive performances representing Cardiff and the Vale district at the recent Aviva Welsh Schools' National track and field championships, held at Brecon.

At those championships, year-10 Thomas Williams (Stanwell) produced his best performances of the season to win the middle boys 100 and 200 metres titles,

and help his district team to victory in the relay.

A second year-10, Matthew Collins of Barry Comprehensive, finished second in the 400 metres, in a new personal best time, while completing the trio is year-11 Matthew Edwards, who claimed his first steeplechase title at the event; all three are members of Barry and Vale Harriers.

Thomas has been selected for the 100 metres, 200 metres and sprint relay; Matthew Collins is down to run the 400 metres and the 4 x 400 metres relay, while Matthew Edwards contests the steeplechase.

All three boys know that the standard of competition at this event will be very tough – for Wales, it is almost the equivalent of 'David' taking on three 'Goliaths' at the same time.

The trio all gained international honours, either indoors or over the country last winter, so the event marks another step in their development.

Competition starts on the field at 11am, and on the track at 1pm, and the meeting finishes at 5.30pm. **PM**

CHURCH TEA

PENARTH All Saints Church is holding a strawberry tea on Saturday, July 16, between 3pm-5pm in the Main Hall, Victoria Square.

Freshly-baked scones, strawberries and cream with tea or coffee (£4), including musical accompaniment! There will also be a raffle and bric-a-brac stall.

All proceeds to the church conversion project now under way.

RAILWAY DISPLAY

THE Penarth Model Railway exhibition will take place at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, on Sunday, July 17, from 10.30am-4.30pm.

Admission: Adults £2, children/OAPs £1.50. At least 10 layouts in various scales will be on display.

Why buy a beach hut, when you can buy an island off Vale coast?

RIGHT:

Just 400 yards off the Vale coast, Sully Island – it's up for sale.

ON the east coast of England a small beach hut went up for sale earlier this summer for £60,000 – whereas off the Vale coast someone could now buy their own island for £95,000!

Sully Island has always been a popular beauty spot from which people

have been keen to view the magnificent views up and down the Bristol Channel, and once had an asking price of more than £1m.

Now, it has been put up for sale by Cooke & Arkwright of Bridgend.

Spokesman Chris Hyde told The GEM: "It was for sale with another agent for £1.25m, but didn't sell at



SHORT WALK, BUT KEEP ONE EYE ON THE TIDE!

that price. "We've opted for a more manageable price for a lovely island with environmental, ecological and historical interest."

"It is accessible via the stone causeway for three hours a day at low tide, but people have to take care of the extremely fast tide."

"I went out to see it on a lovely day

and was able to see as far as the Severn Bridges and Glastonbury Tor!"

The buyer would not be able to build on the island, so a person wedded to the glories of nature – and a magnificent view – seems to be the most likely purchaser.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (DOCK VIEW ROAD (PART) AND THOMPSON STREET (PART) BARRY) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME AND REVOCATION) ORDER 2011

On the 5th July 2011 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below.

The Order will come into operation on the 18th July 2011, or on the date the necessary signs / road markings are in place, whichever is the later. A copy of the Order and a plan showing the affected area may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the same, or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 18th July 2011 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE

Make new Order.

No waiting at anytime.

Dock View Road Barry.

On its south side from a point 37 metres east of its junction with Thompson Street for a distance of 38 metres east.

In The County Council of South Glamorgan (Traffic Regulation) (Barry No.1) Order 1975.

TRO 127

Schedule 2 paragraph 2.

Amend entry to read "That length which extends from its junction with Thompson Street for a distance of 40 metres east and from a point 83 metres east of that junction to its junction with Station Street."

Revoke

The County Council of South Glamorgan (Thompson Street, Barry) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 1995. aTRO 267

Dated this 14th day of July 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter

Head of Visible Services

Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps Offices, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, Vale of Glamorgan, CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

GORCHYMYN (DIRYMU A GWAHARDD AROS AR UNRHYW ADEG) 2011 AR GYFER RHANNAU O DOCK VIEW ROAD A THOMPSON STREET, Y BARRI

Ar 5 Gorffennaf 2011, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adranau 1 a 2 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob p. er gal-luogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r diben cyffredinol sydd wedi'i ddisgrifio yn yr Atodlen isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 18 Gorffennaf 2011, neu os bydd yn rhaid aros nes y bydd yr arwyddion / marciau ffordd angenrheidiol wedi'u cwblhau, ar y dyddiad hwnnw. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos yr ardal dan sylw yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswrwyd y Gorchymyn, neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b. er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybi-wch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod, neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 18 Gorffennaf 2011 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN

Llunier Gorchymyn newydd.

Gwahardd aros ar unrhyw adeg.

Dock View Road, Y Barri.

Ar ei hochr dde o fan sy'n 37 medr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd â Thompson Street am 38 medr i gyfeiriad y dwyrain.

Gorchymyn (Rheoli Traffig) (Y Barri 1) Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg 1975. Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig 127

Atodlen 2 paragraff 2.

Newidiwch y cofnod i hyn "y darn hwnnw sy'n ymestyn o'i chyffordd â Thompson Street am 40 medr i'r dwyrain ac o fan 83 medr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd honno hyd at ei chyffordd â Station Street."

Dirymer y gorchymyn hwn

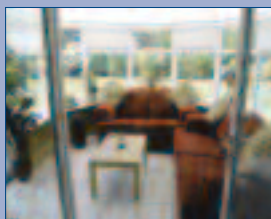
Gorchymyn (Gwahardd Aros) (Thompson Street, Y Barri) Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg 1995. Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig 267

Dyddiedig 14 Gorffennaf 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfeydd yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel, Gwentô, Bro Morgannwg, CF5 6AA.



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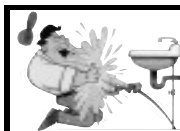
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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

RAUM Jeffrey

BSc, C.Chem, F.R.S.C.

Jeffrey died suddenly at the University Hospital of Wales on Friday 8th July 2011. Much loved husband of Joan. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

A Graveside Service will be held at Cardiff and The Vale Natural Burial Ground, St. Nicholas, Nr Cardiff, on Wednesday 20th July at 10am.

No flowers at the families request. Donations in lieu if desired would be appreciated for the Dogs Trust.

Donations and all enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 4DE. Tel. 029 20514627.

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Birthdays



Jan Irving
Hope you had a lovely birthday on July 13th.
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Happy 75th Birthday MALCOLM JONES
on 19th July



Enjoy your day.
Love from Cynthia and all the family
X X X X

JORDAN PEATE

Happy 18th Birthday

for 24th July
Lots of love from Mum, Dad & Luke
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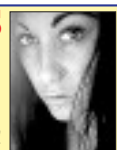
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Congratulations on achieving an Upper Second Class Degree in Computer Forensics, including a First Class Dissertation.

HAPPY GRADUATION!

Love – Mum and Dad X X X



SOPHIE HOLLOWAY

Congratulations from Wick on achieving a 2:1 in law from Kingston University, London.

“Good luck with your LPC” at the College of Law, Bristol.

Love from Nan Williams and all the family. X X X



DONNA SHIRE

Congratulations on your Bsc (Hons) Degree in Occupational Therapy. Your second degree! We are all very proud of you.

All our love, Mum, Dad, Emma, Adam & Phil.
X X X



Thank You

Elvene Mottershead

would like to thank the surgeons and staff of the Princess of Wales Hospital, the Endoscopy Dept, Theatre, Intensive Care, Wards 8 and 16, and the Bridgend Clinic for their excellent care and expertise during her recent illness.

Elvene Mottershead

would like to thank all the many friends and members of her family for their prayers, good wishes, cards, letters, gifts and flowers during her recent illness. They were gratefully received, and very welcome.

‘THERE ARE CHILDREN IN CAERAU WHO HAVE NEVER SEEN A CARROT’

Former GP tells of plans to transform old school into a community centre

AMBITIOUS plans to transform an old valley school into a thriving community centre are being backed by two Assembly members.

Byron Davies, Regional Assembly member for south Wales west, paid a visit to the Caerau Development Trust, which has taken over the former Blaenllynfi Infants School.

They were met by retired village GP Dr Jill Evans, who chairs the trust and borough councillor Steve Smith, vice chairman.

The Welsh Conservative members were shown the work already done at the school, which includes creating meeting rooms and setting up a community boutique.

Part of the extensive buildings have been leased out to small businesses to promote local employment and to training organisations like Morphiou, which is working to give people new skills.

The school is already the base for the Contagious dance group and has a successful guitar club up and running. It is also the base for Caerau Youth Club, a crèche and an outreach for Maesteg Citizens Advice Bureau.

“Caerau Development Trust has a lot of schemes in the pipeline,” explained Coun Smith. “Apart from the school, we are also working on the new BMX track on the site of the old Coegnant Colliery which is due to open in August.”

“This will draw youngsters in from a wide area – there is only one other track in south Wales.”

The organisation is also seeking funding for a market garden to be created on land at North Street which has been donated by Valleys to Coast. This development will include poly tunnels and a shop where freshly grown local food can be sold.

“There are children in Caerau who have never seen a carrot,” said Dr Jill.

“We are also hoping to stage some cookery classes with the young mothers who are part of a generation that was never taught to cook in school.”

“We want to do basic stuff that will ensure



Regional AM Suzy Davies, centre, with Dr Jill Evans, left, and Jen Terry of Caerau Development Trust holding up some of the clothes for sale in the community boutique at Blaenllynfi School.

that they save money because of no longer having to buy expensive ready-made meals and also give their families nutritious meals. It’s a win-win situation.”

Caerau is a Communities First area and is the fifth most deprived area in Wales with high levels of child deprivation. There is a very active Communities First Group in the village, which is working closely with the trust.

Sixty six per cent of children in the village who attend the newly-built Caerau Primary School qualify for free school dinners and 120 children a day turn up for free school breakfasts.

Coun Smith added: “Our plans for the school include hiring out the main hall for community activities and eventually we hope to put on dinners and similar functions, once we get the former school kitchens up and running.”

“We also have plans to run a community café where people can pop in and meet friends over a cup of tea.”

The Trust is now running its shop five afternoons a week. The Community Boutique relies on donations of clothing, books, bric a brac and other items which are sold to raise funds.

“It’s really great,” Dr Jill stated. “I have bought quite a few items of clothing myself and I know that people are enjoying coming in and having a rummage. It’s a social activity.”

The two AMs also visited Noddfa Chapel Community Centre



Regional AM Byron Davies, left, with Coun Steve Smith of Caerau Development Trust in the Community Boutique.

which is separately run but has close links with the Trust.

“I sit on both committees so we are making sure we do not duplicate each other,” said Coun Smith.

“Noddfa has activities going on including computer classes but we have larger premises which can stage activities too big for the chapel.”

Suzy Davies commented: “This is the Big Society in action,” she said. “The people in this village know what’s needed and are getting out there and doing it. No-one underestimates the commitment, money and time this requires.”

“Nevertheless, Caerau Development Trust has all the hallmarks of a strong, inclusive community presence which can be trusted to play a key role in designing as well as delivering the services which can help regenerate the valley.”

Byron Davies felt the school had terrific potential: “It is located near the new BMX track

and alongside the cycle track and community route up the valley,” he said. “The Afan Valley enjoys massive tourism from cyclists coming from all over the UK.”

“I know that the borough council is hoping to tap into that potential by extending the cycle tracks from Caerau over the mountain to link in with those in the Afan so there may be some tourism spin off here.”

“I was very taken with one of the ideas being discussed at the moment by the Trust, which is to create either a bunkhouse or guest accommodation in part of the school for cyclists and other tourists.”

“There is very little accommodation in the Llynfi valley for visitors so this would plug a huge gap in the market.”

The regional AMs have promised to back the Trust in its bids for Assembly funding and plan further visits to inspect the BMX track once it is up and running.

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SUMMER IN THE CITY!



Group's students are off to London!

WHILE most children are looking forward to a lazy summer holiday, three students from Stagecoach Theatre Arts will be leaving Wales for a summer in London!

Siwan Wyn Henderson, Matthew Bartlett, both 15 and Oliver Bartlett age 11, successfully auditioned and beat competition of more than 700 young performers to be cast in a

musical production of *The Secret Garden*, based on the classic children's novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

The production will be directed by a team of professional London directors and performed in the Leatherhead Theatre, Surrey.

The talented trio are no strangers to the London stage, having recently performed at Her Majesty's Theatre, London as part of the Stagecoach Performance

Troupe. Stagecoach rewards commitment with the presentation of certificates and awards.

Siwan received her 10-year award last term, Matthew receives his 11-year award, and Oliver his five-year award this term.

During the summer holiday, Stagecoach runs week long workshops in Bridgend and Cowbridge.

Visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/bridgend

Arts, crafts & cookery to the fore at the Glamorgan WI show



A BUMPER crowd attended the third Glamorgan WI Show at North Cornelly, when 1,600 exhibits and competition entries from WIs in Glamorgan filled the hall, showing the variety of crafts, art, photography, floral art and cookery skills of members.

The theme of the show was 'Music Box', each class depicting song titles such as 'Hello Dolly', 'Sunrise, Sunset', 'All that Jazz', 'Masquerade' and 'Baubles Bangles and Beads'.

'Strawberry Fields Forever' proved very popular and looked very tasty, with every way of including strawberries in a cooked item. 'Send

BRIDGEND SILVER SALVER AWARD GOES TO PENLLYN



in the Clowns' showed off the children's skills in artwork and 'Mouldy Old Dough' was the title of the hotly-contested men's class of 'three bread rolls'.

The winners of the Bridgend Salver for most points gained (WI under 40 members) was Penlllyn & District WI.

READER'S VIEW

Is it too late to save town's cattle market?

IREFER to the article by Philip Irwin, (GEM June 23 edition) regarding the replacement of the Cowbridge Livestock Market.

The market has been in existence for more than 200 years in Cowbridge and is the last remaining market in the Vale to serve the farming community.

Each week, more than 500 animals are sold on behalf of local farmers.

In your article, no mention was made of the impact of this possible closure on the farming community, and having referred to the minutes of the Vale Council's cabinet meeting where this decision was taken, I also note that no mention is made of the impact on the farming community.

It is unbelievable that the council should consider the closure of the market without even discussing the impact on a significant section of the Vale's economy. If the market closes, farmers will have to take their livestock to either Carmarthen or Abergavenny markets.

This will result in at least 25 4 x 4s and/or lorries travelling up to 116 extra miles each week with the resulting increase in fuel costs, wear and tear on vehicles and impact on the environment; loss of time which would be better spent on the farm; greater stress on the animals; and possible trade being lost by Cowbridge traders as farmers will buy from retailers located at the market site.

Representations have been made to the Vale Council from individuals, farmers, Members of Parliament, Assembly Members, the NFU, the FUV, the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade and the town councils of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major in support of the retention of the market.

As I understand it, both the auctioneers operating the market wish to continue. Why is the Vale Council so set on closing the market against this

opposition? Indeed, the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, was quoted as saying after the extension of the lease was agreed in March this year: "This is great news for Cowbridge and the farming community. The immediate future of the market is secure and we wish the operators a successful trading year."

Mention is made of a report which concludes that there is a need for lower cost housing for the elderly in Cowbridge.

If this is the case, then there is the Lower School site and the Sixth Form School site of Cowbridge Comprehensive School, which would be more suitable for such development as they contain existing buildings which could be converted, and there is also plenty of space for additional new accommodation.

If the council is still insistent on imposing this decision on the community, they should at least include in their brief a requirement for the developer to relocate the market to a suitable site in the Vale at their cost, as they did in the original development brief in 2001.

Finally, I hope public opinion can change the council's mind so that the market is retained, the total site is improved and used by other organisations for events and car parking.

This would retain the Cowbridge market town tradition and maintain a much-needed facility for the farming community in the Vale and south Wales.

David Harris, Llanmaes GEM NOTE

The writer of the above letter is not Mr David Harris, the local NFU secretary. However, when contacted by The GEM, Mr Harris said that he endorsed the views expressed about the need for a market in the Vale.

He added: "The NFU opposed the closure, and it is our view that it is a great shame there was not more public opposition to that closure."

Windsor ladies sense promotion

PENARTH Windsor Ladies' tennis fourth team find themselves lying second in their league and heading for promotion.

Twice having been thwarted by rain in their attempts to play the Pentrych away fixture, the Penarth Ladies finally made it and came away with a stunning 6-0 victory over the Pentrych firsts.

The squad have all contributed to the success.

Meanwhile, Windsor Men's seconds team have also enjoyed a highly successful season, despite their 2-7 defeat against local rivals Penarth Rectory Road, NG

Cor Meibion Y Machlud's hectic singing schedule!

FOLLOWING a recent concert held in Bonvilston church in support of its floral and open gardens events, Cor Meibion Y Machlud, the Cowbridge-based male voice choir, sang Welsh choral pieces for a large audience at an end-of-conference dinner of the School of Engineering, University of Cardiff at the Mercure Hotel.

Delegates were able to hear and enjoy old favourites such as *Oes Gafur Eto*, *Unwaith Eto'n Nghymru Anwyl* and *Moliannwn*. Some were hearing these pieces sung in Welsh for the first time and clearly enjoyed the experience as they demonstrated by their appreciative applause.

Just two days later, the choir was in action again, competing in the male voice choir competition in Cardigan's Gwyl Fawr Aberteifi, its 59th Annual Eisteddfod.

Once again, two choirs maintained their top spots in a high class competition with local choir Ar Ol Tri and Cor Meibion Taf from Cardiff managing to keep the Cowbridge outfit out of the

prize money.

Although disappointed that the choir was unable to repeat its number one placement of a few years ago, Cor Meibion Y Machlud's performance was praised by the adjudicators and the choir's musical director Eifion G Davies.

"I was very pleased with the quality of our singing. In our first piece, *Si Hei Lwli Mabi*, we achieved a nicely balanced sound, particularly in some of the quieter passages. Our singing of *Hafan Gobaith* was equally impressive!"

The audience appeared to endorse this opinion with enthusiasm as the choir left the stage.

After a summer break, the choir will be shortly preparing for its next public appearance on the Glanfa stage of the Cardiff Millennium Centre on September 4.

Already plans are being made to compete in the National Eisteddfod at Llandow next year.

With the addition of the choir's participation in two recent weddings held in Holy Cross Church, it has been one of the busiest months in its history.

RK

Ben brings bronze medal home to Llantwit Major



ABOVE: A podium finish for Ben Owen.

LLANTWIT Major year-9 pupil Vale in the Welsh schools champion Ben Owen was crowned county pionships.

He finished in third place in the 800m earlier in the season, and was invited to hard race and bought home a compete for Cardiff and the bronze medal - well done, Ben!

Garden barbecue boost for Porthcawl KRUF



ABOVE: Madeleine Moon MP and KRUF chairman Jean Schofield.

Once again, Mrs Jean Schofield, chairman of Porthcawl branch of Kidney Wales (KRUF) opened up her garden to host the annual fundraising barbecue.

More than 80 people attended, including Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon, and food was kindly donated by friends of the committee and committee members.

More than £1,100 was taken, which will be used for supporting local patients requiring treatment at either the Heath or Morriston Hospital.

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Scorpions lose sting against Whitehaven

WHITEHAVEN started the game on the offensive and the Scorpions were hardly out of their own half in the first 15 minutes.

Jamie Murphy caught a high bomb from the first attack while Curtis Cunningham and Ashley Bateman held up Tyrone Dalton over the line.

Casey Bromilow thought he'd given Scorpions the lead against the run of play on 10 minutes after he intercepted a pass and ran 90 metres to the line. However the referee adjudged it to be knock-on and brought play back.

The defence cracked when Carl Rudd broke through and gave Whitehaven the lead on 16 minutes, converting it himself.

Scorpions struck back

Whitehaven South Wales Scorpions 34 14

straight away after winning the ball back from kick-off. They had a set of six following a penalty on Whitehaven's 10 metre line and Andrew Gay took advantage by twisting his way through the Whitehaven back line; Reece converted.

The end to end action continued and Haven took the lead when Miller broke through to score in the corner on 33 minutes; Rudd converted.

12-6 up at half-time, Whitehaven's Carl Sice did well to extend their lead six minutes after the break, reaching over while on his back to ground. Rudd converted.

Scorpions hit back straight away as Semesi Cocker marked his comeback game by

charging through. Reece added the extras before adding a penalty to put Scorpions just four points down.

But, after winning a goal-line drop-out, Doran set up Dexter Miller to run through and score, with Rudd

hitting the post with the conversion attempt.

Smith rolled over the line for the home side's fifth try of the game, and Rudd added the extras to put Haven 28-14 up.

Scorpions were denied a bonus point when Loz Hamzat added another try in the corner. Rudd did well to convert from the touchline.

IG

Golf society's grand day out

THE Blacksmiths Arms (Llanmaes) golf society held its latest event at the Coed y Mwstr golf club.

Chris Willey, Andy Wilkey and Bill Aspinall all scored well, but runner-up was Gary Nealon who posted 31 points.

Winner on the day was current champion John Campbell, who

warmed up for the defence of his crown by coming home with 32 points.

Longest drive went to the evergreen Geoff Smith, while Chris Goacher won nearest the pin.

The annual 'Blacksmiths Closed' takes place at Swansea's Fairwood park on July 22.

CG

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Junior champion Josh takes Cowbridge 750 bowls title

ANOTHER four games were played last week at Cowbridge Bowls Club, despite the adverse weather.

There was an improvement in performances on recent weeks for the men's team, but disappointing results for the ladies.

For the midweek Munro Cup game, Cowbridge men faced Barry Romilly men on the Romilly Park green.

The home team has one of the strongest teams in south Wales, and it is rare that visitors get the better of them.

On this occasion, Cowbridge lost by 37 shots overall, and on three of the four rinks.

However, there was some pleasing news. The team of Mansel Davey, Clive Pritchard,



ABOVE:

Jasmine Emery, Josh Evans (champion), Jason Edgeworth (runner-up) and Sam Fairclough with club coaches Glenys Davies and Dennis Snelling.

Mick Davey and last gaining two away points minute stand-in skip for Cowbridge.

John Trott deserve special mention for winning their battle 17-11 and John Trott is still smiling! It is almost a month

since the men's team had a Saturday home game and, going into last Saturday's league game, Cowbridge needed a good result to boost confidence.

St Joseph's from Cardiff were the visitors – a team riding high in the league and among the keenest of competitors.

Cowbridge were without many regular players and had a patched-up side, but all played well to earn a resounding home win by 119 shots to the visitor's 51.

the Cowbridge Ladies team travelled west to the Porthcawl Prince of Wales Club.

Although two games were close on two of the rinks, Cowbridge lost overall by 18 shots.

Two days later, another away game – this time at Rhooose on their new artificial green.

With Rhooose short of players, it was a game Cowbridge should have won.

Although there was one winning rink, Cowbridge lost the match by four shots.

The junior players' final for the Cowbridge 750 trophy was played out last weekend.

Unfortunately, the recent poor weather has meant fewer after-school sessions for the youngsters and the finals had to be brought forward because of school trips to Normandy and forthcoming school holidays.

The year's Cowbridge 750 champion is Josh Evans, the runner-up Jason Edgeworth and joint thirds, Jasmine Emery and Sam Fairclough.

Well done to all competitors.

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Vale athletes on S4C!

IN July 2012, the world's greatest athletes will head to London to compete in the Olympic Games.

However, last weekend Vale youngsters joined hundreds of Wales' finest young athletes to compete in Wales' very own Olympic and Paralympic-inspired 'Gemau Cymru' in Cardiff.

S4C will be broadcasting highlights of the competition on Friday, July 15.

Geraint Hardy and Sarra Elgan present Gemau Cymru – Yr Urdd, with commentary from Dot Davies and Rhys ap Iwan.

Sixteen teams from across Wales were invited to take part in a prestigious rugby tournament at the Gemau Cymru sport festival, with Ysgol Bro Morgannwg invited by the Welsh Rugby Union following their success in different tournaments this season.

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The Cowbridge Seconds are undone by negative tactics

AFTER the disappointment of not being able to push for victory against Maesteg last week, Cowbridge were keen to rectify things against Pontyberem on Saturday.

Cowbridge travelled down the M4, intent on chalking up another victory but upon arrival it was clear that, in light of the fact that the pitch was in very poor condition, whoever won the toss would be at a distinct advantage.

Unfortunately, Jonty Webb took the toss and the visitors were invited to bat.

The Cowbridge innings started well; however, with the score at 36 the skipper was out which brought big hitting Naveed Younis to the crease.

Both he and Guy Swallow continued to push the score along with Naveed dealing mainly in boundaries, but despite the excellent run rate, wickets still fell at regular intervals with Guy going for 32 and Naveed 33.

The Cowbridge innings was poised at 144 for 5 off 33, with the captain conscious that they would need to post a competitive total to stand any chance of victory.

He should not have worried as both Jamie

Pursey and Ian Evans set about building a superb partnership. Both set about the Pontyberem bowling, depositing the ball to all parts of the ground.

Jamie was finally out for 27 with Ian still batting excellently at the other end. The talented youngster Rian Thomas joined Ian at this point, who ably supported him as the Cowbridge total passed 220.

With the score at 230 off 47 overs, Jonty felt this was enough and declared the innings with Ian finishing on 79 not out.

A declaration is always a risk but the captain was confident that with such a total, attacking fields could be set encouraging the Pontyberem batsmen to

play their shots and hopefully wickets would come.

However, Cowbridge had not reckoned on the home side batting in such a negative manner.

It became immediately evident that the Pontyberem batsmen had no intention of even attempting to chase down the Cowbridge total. With Cowbridge setting an attacking field there were plenty of gaps for the Pontyberem batsmen to score in.

However, the home batsmen just seemed content to preserve their wickets with no concern for the target, crawling to 60 for 3 off 33 overs.

The Cowbridge bowlers bowled well on a very slow wicket, with the trio of Jamie Pursey, Harri Collier and John

Gilbert bowling excellently, but it became increasingly more frustrating as the innings progressed and the Pontyberem batsmen continued to bat so negatively.

In the end, despite the extra overs, Cowbridge were unable to take the final wickets with Pontyberem finishing on 137 for 5 off 52 overs.

This was a disappointing and frustrating game for the visitors but there were some positives such as the batting of Ian Evans and the performances of the youngest in the side, George Brown, Joe Russell and Rian Thomas who all fielded very well.

Hopefully, Cowbridge will get back to their winning ways this week against Gorseinon. **JW**

Eric & co can't spark revival!

LLANTWIT A were at Millwood on July 6 for the Sixth Division Match.

It was a good game, weather perfect, but the home team were too strong for Llantwit.

Eric Sparks's rink, G Merchant, P Aston and Pat Twomey played very well, and after 15 ends the score was even at 15 shots, but then Llantwit started to put the pressure on, not allowing the home side to score. They finished winning by 12 shots, the best performance of the team.

Eric Hacker's rink, W Evans, I Williamson and N Parry, failed to hold Millwood. Although several times holding shot, they couldn't cope with

the devastating accuracy of Millwood's Eric Marles who consistently took shot. Although Llantwit never gave up, they lost by eight shots.

Captain Richard Gray's rink, E Lamb, D Ahearn Jr and M Jones were one shot up after six ends, but the home side got in to their stride and won by 16 shots.

Roy Harding's rink, D Lancaster, M Mason and K Williams, were very unlucky not to win. They were 18-17 up on the 20th end and holding shot but the home skip (with his last bowl) had a wick and scored two shots to win 19-18.

Rink scores: E Sparks 22-13; E Hacker 11-19; R Gray 14-30; R Harding 18-19. Total score: 68-81.

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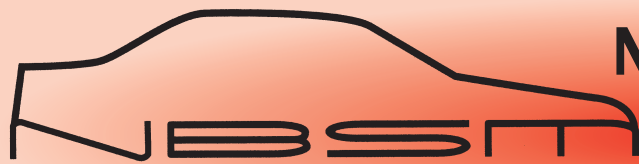
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- 05 55 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v Club Automatic. In moonland grey, with charcoal interior, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, power steering, only 62,200 miles £4,995

SPORTS

- 09 09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles £13,495
- 06 56 MINI Cooper S 1.6 (175bhp) 3-dr hatchback. In In chilli red with black cloth/red leather ray combination upholstery, chrome line exterior, rear spoiler, radio/cd, panoramic roof, alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, only 47,450 miles £4,995
- 06 56 LEXUS GS300 3.0 LE 6-speed Auto 4-dr Saloon in Aulian grey with Grampian grey leather interior, memory seats, cruise control, multi-cd, reversing camera and sensors, high luxurious car, only 66,235 miles £11,995
- 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSI (170ps) FT 5-dr in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles £9,995
- 06 06 BMW 5 Series 5.0 M5 7-speed sequential, 4-dr saloon in metallic silver/blue with black leather interior, traction control, heated seats, sat nav, full service history, only 33,72 miles £25,995
- 05 55 BMW 1 Series 2.0TD 118d Sport 5-dr Hatchback. In sapphire black with anthracite interior, CD, climate control, alloy wheels, front fogs, only 52,000 miles £10,495
- 05 55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles £4,995
- 05 05 BMW X3 2.0D 5-dr Station Wagon. In metallic silver, with half black leather interior, privacy glass, cruise control, climate control, only 59,940 miles £12,995
- 04 04 LANDROVER Range Rover 4.4 V8 Vogue Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon in Java black with charcoal leather interior, heated seats, cruise control, privacy glass, TV, sat nav, only 52,370 miles £14,995
- 04 04 MINI Cooper 1.6 3-dr hatchback in Indi blue and white roof with black interior, air con, CD, external chrome line, only 95,910 miles £4,995
- 03 53 HONDA Civic 1.6 Vtec SE Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In Aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, heated electric mirrors, CD, only 46,400 miles £4,495
- 03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles £3,995
- 03 03 PORSCHE 911 3.6 Carrera 2-dr Coupe. In Basalt metallic black with black leather interior, CD, Bluetooth iPod connection, aluminium gear knob and hand brake, 18 inch 5-spoke alloy wheels, only 70,700 miles £19,995
- 03 03 BMW 3 Series 3.0 330 Ci Convertible in Topaz Blue with Montana grey leather interior, 6-CD changer, heated seats, automatic air con, traction control system, only 55,200 miles £3,495
- 03 03 BMW 3 series 2.0 316ci 2-dr convertible. In metallic gold with black leather interior, multi cd, heated seats, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cruise control, air con, only 56,310 miles £8,495
- 02 52 JAGUAR XK-R 4.2 2-dr Auto Coupe in anthracite black with red leather interior, climate control, 18inch alloy wheels, cruise control, traction control system, only 91,710 miles £9,995
- 01 X LEXUS RX300 3.0 Automatic Station Wagon in platinum ice with grey interior, climate control, traction control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, only 88,000 miles £4,995
- 01 X MERCEDES BENZ SL 3.2 SL320 Edition 2-dr Convertible. In Designo mystic blue with black leather interior, piano black wood trim heated seats, phone prep, panoramic detachable hood, 18" alloy wheels, only 45,000 miles £16,995
- 01 Y VOLVO C70 2.4T 2-dr Automatic Coupe. In moon dust with black leather interior, cruise control, climate control, CD, heated seats, only 68,250 miles £3,995
- 98 R BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr convertible. In white with red leather interior, radio/cd, alloy wheels, electric windows only 115,000 miles £2,995
- 97 R TOYOTA MR2 GT T-Bar 2-dr Coupe. In White with black leather interior, alloy wheels, multi CD, service history, only 83,690 miles £3,995

FAMILY

- 10 10 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi (140ps) titanium 5-dr MPV. In moon dust silver with ebony alcantara leather interior, quickclear screen, climate control, cruise control, phone prep, sports front bumper, one owner, only 8,290 miles £19,995
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- 07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles £6,495
- 06 06 RANGE ROVER Sport TDV6 HSE 2.7 Automatic. In bonatti grey with ivory leather interior, rear entertainment package, front and rear parking sensors, privacy glass, lovely example, only 58,970 miles £24,995
- 06 06 AUDI A4 2.0TDI S-line 4-dr saloon in brilliant red with mondial black interior, climate control, body coloured bumpers, radio/cd, service history, only 74,400 miles £9,995
- 05 55 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 Desire 2 5-dr MPV in oriental blue with dark interior, air con, power steering, electric windows, service history, one owner, only 62,000 miles £4,995
- 05 55 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 CDX Automatic 4-dr saloon in pearl black with bluish grey leather interior, climate control, cd auto-changer, front fog lights, anti lock brakes, only 64,450 miles £3,995
- 05 05 FORD Focus 1.8 Zetec 5-dr Hatchback. In honour green with mid-night black interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloys, only 53,080 miles £4,495
- 05 05 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 16v S 5-dr Hatchback. In aluminium silver with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, electric windows, immobiliser, traction control only 74,245 miles £3,795
- 04 54 FORD Mondeo Ghia 5-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with ebony interior, alloy wheels, air con, electric windows, radio/CD, service history, only 53,000 miles £4,395
- 04 04 TOYOTA Rav-4 VVTi XT4 5-dr automatic station wagon in corn silk with Nebraska black leather interior, climate control, roof rails, sunroof, rear boot guard, only 26,240 miles £7,995
- 04 04 SUZUKI Jimny Mode 1.4 3-dr Station Wagon in burgundy with grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, electric windows, radio/CD, service history, only 23,410 miles £4,995
- 04 04 FORD Focus 1.6 16v LX 5-dr hatchback in machine silver with mid-night black interior, air con, quick clear screen, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, superb example, only 55,920 miles £3,995
- 03 03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Convertible. In pearlescent silver with grey half leather interior, air con, CD, electric roof, wonderful example, only 47,580 miles £3,995
- 02 02 FORD Focus 1.6i 3-dr Hatchback. In silver with anthracite leather interior, front fogs, quick clear screen, air con, alloy wheels, only 35,500 miles £2,995

SMALL

- 09 59 FIAT 500C 1.4 Lounge 2-dr Convertible in white with chequered interior, parking sensors, air con, radio/CD, sport model, fabulous car for the summer, only 18,280 miles £11,995
- 09 09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2 5-Dr Hatchback. In black magic with Esterel black interior, air con, central locking, electric windows, body coloured bumpers, only 26,780 miles £7,495
- 08 08 FIAT 500 1.2 Sport 3-dr Hatchback in crossover black with black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, radio/CD/MP3 £7,495
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- 07 57 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 5-dr hatchback. In moon dust silver with dark interior, alloys, auto lights and wipers, privacy glass, folding mirrors, only 30,000 miles £5,995
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- 06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Ghia 5-dr hatchback in metallic blue with black leather interior, alloy wheels, CD, air con, colour coded bumpers, only 38,830 miles £5,995
- 06 06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 HDI Verve 5-dr Hatchback. In silver blue metallic with Madison dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, front fogs, £30 a year road tax, only 39,790 miles £5,795
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- 04 54 SMART Fortwo Passion 698cc 2-dr in black with grey interior, air con, multiple air bags, power steering, alloy wheels, only 63,000 miles £3,495
- 03 52 SUZUKI Ignis 1.3 GLAutomatic 3-dr in black with grey interior, CD, electric windows, electric mirrors, only 28,900 miles £2,995



09 59 FIAT 500C 1.4 Lounge 2-dr convertible in white with chequered interior, parking sensors, air con, radio, cd, sport mode fabulous car for the summer, only 18,280 miles £11,995



05 05 BMW X3 2.0D 5-dr Station Wagon. In metallic silver, with half black leather interior, privacy glass, cruise control, climate control, only 59,940 miles £12,995



05 55 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 Desire 2 5-dr MPV in oriental blue with dark interior, air con, power steering, electric windows, service history, one owner, only 62,000 miles £4,995



04 04 TOYOTA Rav-4 VVTi XT4 5-dr automatic station wagon in corn silk with Nebraska black leather interior, climate control, roof rails, sunroof, rear boot guard, only 26,240 miles £7,995

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52	HYUNDAI Sante Fe V6 Auto. In met green, 2 owners, 67k miles, real value 4x4 at	£3,995
03	VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Convertible. In met blue with beige leather trim, BBS alloys, 72,000 miles.	£3,495

SMALL, ECONOMICAL AND FAMILY CARS

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06	VW Beetle 2.0. In met blue, 49,000 miles with a/c, superb example at	REDUCED BY £1,000 TO £5,995
05	FORD Focus 2.0 TDCi Ghia 5-dr. In black, 70,000 miles. Top of the range diesel	£5,995
05	VW Golf 1.9 Diesel 'S' 5-dr. In met blue, 62,000 miles, cd, a/c, etc.	£5,995
05	MINI One. In cream with grey cloth, 71,000 miles pepper pack, alloys, cd, etc.	REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995
58	RENAULT Twingo 1.1 Extreme 3-dr. In black, 10,000 miles, one owner, low insurance	£5,695
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56	CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 Sport 5-dr. In silver, 33,000 miles with full leather trim, a/c, etc.	£3,995
04	TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3-S 5-dr. In met blue, 73,000 miles, a/c, c/d, etc.	REDUCED BY £1,000 TO £3,995
54	PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 3-dr. In electric blue, 49,000 miles, alloys, CD, a/c	£3,795
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55	CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Ikon 3-dr in burnt orange, 50,000 miles with alloys, etc	£2,995
54	VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 Design in silver, 45,000 miles, low insurance	£2,995
53	PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Look 3-dr. In silver birch metallic, 58,000 miles	£2,995
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Wonderful day of bowls as....

Challenge Cup final ends in conclusive style!



ABOVE: Tom Ingroville, Carol Willmot and Nick Parry with president Edna Hardie.

LLANTWIT Major Bowling Club recently staged the annual Bob Whitehead Challenge Cup Competition, which is in fond memory of Bob, who was a long-serving and respected member of the club.

A total of 30 players took part, three players in each team and playing five sets of five ends, changing opponents every five ends.

The contest took about four hours, during which there was some superb bowling (and some not so superb bowling!).

The eventual winners were Nick Parry, Tom Ingroville and Carol Willmot, who defeated Dave Johns, Etta Gray and Richard George by 10 shots to 1.

President Edna Hardie said it was a good afternoon and the club is indebted to Alan Gibbard, whose organisation was faultless.

She also said it was good to see Alan back on the green after recovering from a serious illness, and we look forward to seeing him bowling again.



Winner Iain Ross (left) is presented with the claret jug by John McGlyne.

Iain wins high-scoring oldies jug!

THE second annual Super Senior (over 70 years of age) competition was held at Cottrell Park on Monday, July 4.

The weather was excellent, the Mackintosh course was in first class condition, and 17 competitors took part and also enjoyed the post-competition meal.

The winner, with 38 points, was Iain Ross. Viv Helyar, last year's champion, scored 36 points, and claimed

second place, after countback from Arthur Goodman.

An eagle at the par-5 sixth hole by Bart Haines secured fourth prize. Dai Thomas and John Collins both received prizes for scoring the most three and four points, while Dennis Walters received the prize for most consistent golfer.

A good evening ended with all looking forward to next year's competition!

Llantwit Major AFC's golf day at the Vale Resort is a success

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC recently held their annual golf competition at the Vale Resort in Hensol.

A record 16 teams, each containing four players, signed up for the event, which promised to be every bit as successful as in previous years.

The diverse array of golfers were greeted at the resort with hot drinks and bacon rolls to line competitors' stomachs before setting out in an attempt to scoop one of the individual and team prizes.

The first group teed off at 10am with the sun blazing down upon the picturesque woodland course. If the course was easy on the eye, some of the strokes from the less gifted players were certainly not, former Llantwit chairman Wilf Jennings, setting a course record for number of balls lost, and Benny Davies producing what can only be described as 'military golf'.

The early starters were just completing their rounds for the day when the weather took a turn for the worse, waterproofs and brollies very much a necessity.



Overall winner, Luke Vincent.

Of the 64 golfers that set out to tackle the taxing course, all returned safely to the clubhouse with anecdotes of varying self-satisfaction over hard earned refreshments. A superb three-course meal was next on the agenda, closely followed by the presentation of the awards.

Event organiser Lee Jennings doubled up as compere to announce the winners. Luke Vincent captured the 'nearest the pin' award, while Rhys Gould claimed the 'longest drive' accolade.

Luke Vincent was also the overall winner and claimed the much coveted 'Royal and Yellow Jacket' scoring 42 stableford points off his 21 handicap. The team prize went to the foursome of Owen Newton, Matt Jackson, Gareth James and Darren Phillips.

Llantwit Major AFC are always looking for new sponsors, anyone interested is welcome to contact commercial manager Lee Jennings on 07718 897867. DC

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GEM sport

Dan the man as he takes cycling title

PORTRCAWL'S Daniel Pearson is the 2011 National Junior Road Race champion after taking a solo win in the title race at Barnard Castle, County Durham.

The 2011 Welsh Junior Road Race champion added the British title to his impressive resumé in style.

Following in the tyre tracks of fellow Welshman Geraint Thomas, Pearson's rise to the top has been inspiring for many young riders.

Pearson (17) is relatively new to the sport and has proved that with a lot of hard work and dedication, anything is possible.

The Port Talbot Wheelers member timed his effort well, biding his time in the bunch for the early laps of the circuit before latching on to a five-rider break which went clear with just eight miles remaining.

However, by the line, he was by himself, taking the win in style. Pearson will now swap his Welsh Champion System jersey, which he won back in May, for the red and blue stripes of the National Champion's jersey.



Triumphant – Dan Pearson.

Cavaliers' ninth wicket is key to their victory!

ON Saturday, the Llantwit Major Cavaliers 2nd XI entertained Barry Wanderers at Windmill Lane.

Barry won the toss and not surprisingly asked Llantwit to bat.

With the ball moving around, wickets fell on a regular basis, the first being opener Tom

Gingell with the score on 12. His fellow opener Luke Vincent hit some lusty blows, scoring 26 before being caught.

With the score on 81 for 7, club chairman Neal Pritchard strode to the wicket before being joined on 111 by skipper Dave Russell. Pritchard was merciless on anything over pitched. The pair added 87 for the ninth wicket before Russell was bowled for 32 looking to hit the ball over long-off.

Pritchard went on to score a fine battling 50 before being the last man out with the score on an improbable 198.

The Cavaliers set out to defend their total with vigour, setting high standards in the field. Luke Vincent produced a fiery spell, working in tandem with Scott Wheatley, who produced a miserly spell of 6-0-15-1.

Following the opening pacy spell, the Cavaliers turned to spin and reaped the rewards as Phil Harris captured the prize wicket of N Reddy for 48, thanks to a fine catch by Tom Gingell. Harris finished with the impressive figures of 10-2-26-3, supported by his fellow spinner, Dave Russell 10-0-41-2.

The Barry Wanderers innings was finished by a magic spell from Alex Harris who took four wickets in just 3.3 overs, the visitors finishing on 148 all out. DR

Bulls prove too strong for Cougars

V A L L E Y **COUGARS** 'A' pushed Bridgend Blue Bulls all the way, eventually going down 40-28 in the battle between the top two teams in the Welsh Conference.

The 'A' team, who fielded a number of rugby league debutants, found themselves 12-0 down inside the first eight minutes as Blue Bulls' wing Nathan Trowbridge twice crossed, with Gareth David converting each of the scores.

David then scored himself after good play from Matthew Hutchings and Andrew Fryer, indicating that the Cougars' worst fears were soon to be realised, but one of those rookies, Jack Morris, quickly hit back with Aled Richards adding the extra two to make it 6-16.

With both teams a man down it was the Bulls who took advantage of the extra space – Charles Stevenson crashing over to score Bridgend's fourth try of the afternoon.

The 'A' team were then rewarded for their endeavour as Steffen Jenkins went over in the corner before Karl Jones chipped and re-gathered

to score.

Jack Morris then went over underneath the posts off a power play from namesake Rhodri – meaning that the Cougars trailed 22-20 at half-time.

Unfortunately for the Cougars, the start of the second half mirrored the first as Mikey Rowe scored under the posts for the visitors. Then Nathan Hawkins and Matthew Hocking linked up to send Stephen Maysmith clear for Bridgend's sixth – David kicking both conversions for a 14-point lead.

A break from Fox should have then sealed the game, but the pass to Matthew Hutchings was fumbled and the Cougars then attacked and a break from Steve Williams resulted in Ieuan Richards scoring.

The home side looked like they may pull off an unlikely comeback after Bridgend prop James Elton was yellow-carded and Cougars' hooker Rhodri Morris made the most of the extra space by crossing for his side's sixth score.

Moments later, Williams was also sent to the sin bin for dissent, and Fox settled the tie from close range, David converting to round off an entertaining affair. KJ

Training sessions now under way at Bridgend Athletic

TRAINING for Bridgend Athletic RFC senior First and Second XV squads has commenced at Newbridge Fields every Tuesday and Thursday at 6.30pm.

New and existing players welcome, further details available from team manager Paul Hearne on 07970 348065.

The club will be competing in the Abercynon 7s on Sunday, August 7

where they won the Bowl Trophy last season.

Away pre-season friendlies have been arranged against North Petherton, Bridgewater on Saturday, August 20 and Maesteg on August 27.

The First XV kick off their Swalec League Division 1 West campaign at home to Bonymaen on September 3.

The Second XV, in the Second XV league for Premiership and Division 1 sides, entertain Bedwas on that same day. AB

CALLING ALL CLUBS!

We are expanding our sports coverage in the area and welcome news, reports and other items of interest from your clubs. Email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk and tell people what your club or group is doing!



Back row: A Roberts, J Roberts, A Yates, T Hill, S Shepard, C Roberts (manager). Front row: R Cox, O Davies, D Donnelly, J Kolinka, T Smith, I Potts. Squad members: Tom Dalton, B Hunter, R Francis, J Odell, M Svenson, S Pearce.

Cricket youngsters reach semi-finals

PICTURED are the successful Bridgend Town Cricket Club under-15s, who are in the semi-finals of the South Wales DC Thomas Cup after defeating Mumbles Bronwydd (Carmarthen) and Llanelli.

The semi-final opponents are

Gowerton, Gorseionon or Ynystawe. The same squad of players play in South Wales Cricket League under-16s zone D and results to date are: Played 8, won 7, lost one.

Our main opponents for the league title are Port Talbot and Tondur. Congratulations to the team, Chris Roberts and Bradley Wodlan. CDD

6-a-side football round-up

PERSIL BOYS continue to head the way in the Bridgend 6-a-side Sunday Premier Division as Glynn Davies pulled the strings in a 3-0 win over Hangover Heroes.

Richard Lewis starred for B Attack who remain in close comfort after easing past Team Extreme by four goals to one.

Inter Wildmill showed why they top the charts in Division One as they hit Minter Phoenix for six who could only reply with two, Roy Larkin with the man of the match display.

The Invincibles suggested that they could well turn their 5 a side Wednesday season around as Rhys Gronow was the stand out performer in a 9-1 humbling of Athleticco Bridgend.

Park Rangers turned up the heat at the sharp end as Neil Mitchell orchestrated a fine 5-2 win over ABCDE FC.

Anyone who wants to join the 6-a-side football leagues in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisure-leagues.net



ABOVE: The Invincibles, who humbled Athleticco Bridgend 9-1 in their Wednesday encounter.

Training starts for under-16s rugby

B R I D G E N D Athletic under-16s are starting training for next season on Thursday, July 14 (and every Thursday) at Newbridge Fields, 6pm-7.30pm.

Training is on the foot-

ball pitch near the changing rooms. If any boys are interested in playing rugby for the Athletic, come along to training or contact either Ian on 07880 788008, Stuart on 07779 727881 or Lee on 07411 713505 for more information. IG

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